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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. *October* 1896.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(~~6775~~.)
(6520.)

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ASIATIC TURKEY.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. ~~6716~~.]
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ERRATA.

Page 144, No. 217, line 5.—For "qualification" read "gratification."
Page 197, No. 328, line 6.—For "No. 557" read "No. 597."
Page 251*, Inclosure in No. 464*, line 4.—For "made" read "read."
Page 266, No. 492, line 1.—For "No. 71" read "No. 717."
Page 324, No. 608, line 4.—For "20th instant" read "21st instant."
Page 452, No. 765, line 1.—For "telegram No. 682 of the 15th November" read "despatch No. 528 of the 21st November."
Page 461, No. 793, line 1.—For "despatch" read "telegram."
Page 482, No. 813, line 6.—For "Mr. Hallward" read "Mr. Hampson." And line 7, for "No. 136" read "No. 794."
Page 529, No. 873, line 5.—For "Messina" read "Mersina."

Nos. 374, 408, 548, 612, and 617.—The substance of these despatches was telegraphed.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Asiatic Turkey.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. ~~6710.~~ 6775]

No. 1.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 1.)

(No. 440.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 1, 1895, 10·55 A.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 165 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to state that I shall be ready to proceed to London whenever your Lordship instructs me to do so.

No. 2.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 1.)

(No. 441.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 1, 1895, 11·45 P.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 165 of the 30th ultimo, I would suggest that, even should Russia stand aloof, I ought, before starting for London, to inform the Ottoman Government that, subject to such modifications as the three Powers may agree to, Her Majesty's Government will insist on the publication and execution of the Reforms of the 11th May. If your Lordship approves, I will speak to the Grand Vizier in this sense, and let it be known that I have done so, as otherwise my departure may appear to confirm statement circulated by the Palace that Her Majesty's Government has dropped the Reforms. A belief that such is the case would drive the Armenians to desperation.

I should also wish to be instructed whether I should, when making the above communication to the Grand Vizier, at the same time mention that your Lordship has summoned me home or whether I should allow sufficient time to elapse for me to receive a reply to my first communication before giving them this additional information. If I adopted the latter course, they would attribute my departure to the absence of a satisfactory answer from the Sublime Porte, and I have little doubt that the Sultan would make considerable concessions in order to prevent my leaving.

No. 3.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 442.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 1, 1895, 8·30 P.M.

I HAVE received the following account of the riots which took place yesterday in Stamboul from a trustworthy eye-witness:—

About 2,000 Armenians, mostly young men of the middle class, assembled near the Porte with the object of presenting a Petition to the Grand Vizier. The gendarmerie stopped them, and the officer in command summoned them to disperse, and, on their refusing to do so, gave the order to seize their leader. The Armenians carried revolvers and knives, all of one pattern. Shots were exchanged, and the officer of the gendarmerie was killed. About fifteen gendarmes and sixty Armenians fell. The police then dispersed the Armenians, pursuing them and arresting large numbers.

The Softas and other Turks, who had been supplied with clubs, set on the Armenians in the streets and beat many of them to death under the very eyes of the police. About 500 Armenians were arrested. Other demonstrations took place at the same time in different parts of Stamboul. 1,000 armed Armenians with women and children have taken refuge in the church of the Patriarchate, where they are besieged by the police.

The police treated the prisoners with the greatest brutality; the Cavass of the British Consulate saw four men brought into the courtyard of the Ministry of Police and bayoneted in cold blood. The Grand Vizier sent twice for the Patriarch yesterday, who, however, did not obey His Highness' summons. Notwithstanding official statements that order has been restored, there has been several murders of Musulmans and Armenians to day in Stamboul and Galata.

The attitude of the Moslem population causes great uneasiness, and apprehension is felt as to the safety of the Christians.

No. 4.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 443.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 2, 1895, 2·30 P.M.

A JOINT communication has been made by the Ambassadors to the Porte on the subject of the riots in Stamboul. We mention the facts which have been brought to our knowledge, and which I reported to your Lordship in my immediately preceding telegram.

We urge that the disorders should be repressed by the forces of the Government alone, and with the least possible bloodshed; and protest against private persons being encouraged or allowed to attack Armenians, and against the cold-blooded murder of prisoners by the police.

No. 5.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 444.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 2, 1895, 2·15 P.M.

MY telegram of yesterday, No. 442.

It appears that the police charged the Armenians and struck them with the butts of their muskets and flat of their swords, and seized upon their leaders; but there seems no doubt that it was the Armenians who fired the first shot.

No. 6.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 445.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 2, 1895, 7·55 P.M.

THE khans inhabited by Armenians in many quarters of Constantinople were, with the connivance of the police, attacked last night by Turks, headed by Softas, and the occupants murdered. There is every reason to believe that the excesses will continue. The churches are full of fugitive Armenians, and are surrounded by the police. Terror reigns in the capital and its suburbs, and wholesale arrests are being made.

The Foreign Minister received the representation made this afternoon on behalf of the Ambassadors with indifference. He declared that none of the facts alleged by us had occurred, and that every measure had been taken to guarantee order and public security.

The Government accuses the Patriarch of fomenting the troubles, whereas his Secretary assures me that he solemnly adjured his people to abstain from violence.

I am secretly informed, on high authority, that the Sultan himself has given private orders to the Ministers of War and Police to treat the Armenians with the utmost rigour, while, on the other hand, it has been officially announced that great leniency would be shown them.

The Porte have sent a Circular to their Representatives abroad grossly misrepresenting the real state of affairs.

No. 7.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 446.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 2, 1895, 8 P.M.

ON Mr. Muriuitch informing me this evening of the manner in which the Foreign Minister received the representation made on behalf of the Ambassadors this afternoon, as reported in my immediately preceding telegram, I sent the following telegram to the Grand Vizier:—

"J'appelle l'attention de votre Altesse et celle du Gouvernement Impérial sur la communication faite aujourd'hui par les premiers Drogmans de cinq Grandes Puissances à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères. Selon les nouvelles qui me parviennent de tous côtés des massacres d'Arméniens ont eu lieu dans les khans qu'ils habitent sur plusieurs points de la capitale et la terreur règne dans Constantinople et ses faubourgs.

"Loin de s'améliorer l'état des choses s'aggrave et je me vois dans la nécessité d'y appeler l'attention sérieuse de mon Gouvernement."

No. 8.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to the Marquess of Dufferin.**

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1895.

IT is necessary, in order to enable the negotiations at Constantinople for the introduction of reforms in the provinces inhabited by Armenians to proceed, that further instructions should be sent to the Ambassadors.

I request your Excellency to propose to the Government to which you are accredited to instruct their Ambassador at Constantinople to concert with the other two Ambassadors in regard to the points in the scheme communicated to the Porte on the 11th May last, which in their opinion are necessary for the protection of the lives and property of the Armenians, and to report the result of their consultation.

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* Also to Sir F. Lascelles (No. 182).

No. 9.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 447.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 3, 1895, 10·45 A.M.*

THE Acting British Consul at Jeddah informs me by telegraph that on the 27th September the authorities dispatched several Shereefs and Sheikhs with a large escort of Arabs to Asfan, which they say is the village from which the murderers came, the object being to induce the Shiekhs of the village to come to Mecca.

Mr. Alban says that as yet there is no news as to the result of the expedition.

No. 10.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 450.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 3, 1895, 12·20 P.M.*

MR. LONGWORTH telegraphs that the ex-Vali of Van, Bahri Pasha, and the Commandant of Trebizond were walking together in the town, when some unknown person fired a revolver at them, and both received wounds in the leg.

No. 11.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 452.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 3, 1895, 6·50 P.M.*

MY telegram of yesterday No. 446.

It is said that the Armenians intend making another demonstration. However, things seemed quieter last night, though there are still very few Armenians to be seen about, and their shops remain closed, and the churches are still full of fugitives.

The arrests continue.

No. 12.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 3, 1895.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 441 of the 1st instant relative to the proposed reforms in the provinces inhabited by Armenians.

It might, I think, be better to reserve till later the announcement that you are going to England.

I approve of the statement which you propose to make to the Grand Vizier, but I should wish you to substitute for the words "small modifications" the words "modifications of detail."

No. 13.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 453.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 4, 1895, 10·50 A.M.*

MR. LONGWORTH telegraphs that one of the two Armenians who fired on Bahri Pasha, as reported in my telegram No. 450 of yesterday, has been arrested. No further arrests have been made, and public order has not been disturbed.

No. 14.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 454.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 4, 1895, 7·5 P.M.*

I CALLED to-day at the private house of Kiamil Pasha, who had expressed a wish to see me at once.

I spoke of the excesses committed during the last few days by the police and by private Mussulmans in Constantinople against unoffending Armenians, of the massacres in khans and houses, of the continued arrests, and of the condition of the prisons, which I proposed to visit, as I did under your Lordship's orders in 1876.

I strongly urged that some steps should be immediately taken to reassure the Armenians and to enable them to return, without fear of further outrages, to their homes and their occupations.

His Highness seemed imperfectly acquainted with the facts, but declared his determination to have a fair inquiry made into them, and he offered to allow any one whom I might depute to assist in the inquiry.

With regard to the Armenian question, his Highness expressed a strong opinion as to the necessity of an early settlement. He appeared to be under the impression that there was an agreement on all points between the Powers and the Porte.

I told him that some further points remained to be discussed, and I specially insisted on the importance of the reforms being promulgated in an Imperial Decree.

I made the communication authorized by your Lordship's telegram No. 169 of the 3rd October.

No. 15.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 455.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 4, 1895, 8·20 P.M.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, respecting some riots which have occurred at Alexandretta:—

"About 3,000 recruits are at present being embarked from Alexandretta, of whom half have already left for Tripoli, in Barbary, and Crete. They plundered the shops and fruit gardens, and committed great excesses in the town. Some fighting occurred among them, and several were wounded.

"I consider that their presence here constitutes, in the present general critical state of affairs, a source of danger, and that they should at once be removed from Alexandretta."

Mr. Barnham suggests it would be advisable to send a gun-boat to that port, and I beg to recommend his suggestion.

No. 16.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 456.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 4, 1895, 9·40 P.M.*

MY Russian and French colleagues have been instructed by their respective Governments to address a note to the Porte in which they take act of the reforms which the Sublime Porte has already accepted, and ask, in addition, for a Christian Assistant to the High Commissioner and to the Vali, this latter point being already conceded.

At a meeting I had with them this evening, I said that your Lordship had proposed that we should be authorized to concert as to further points, and that I did not, therefore, feel justified in joining in the note which they proposed to address to the Porte.

I expressed my private opinion that we ought to demand some further points, and above all, ought to insist on the publication of the reforms. My colleagues were prepared to join me in insisting on this latter point, and they are not, personally, averse to further demands.

They telegraphed to their Governments that I could not join in their proposed note, and asked for further instructions.

No. 17.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, October 4, 1895.*

I AM informed by M. Chichkine that instructions in the sense of your Lordship's telegram No. 182 have already been sent to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, in consequence of a telegram received from Prince Lobanoff.

No. 18.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 339.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1895.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 618 of the 25th ultimo relative to the movements of Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mousb, and I approve the instructions which you sent to Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 19.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 340.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1895.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 626 of the 25th ultimo relative to the insanitary condition of the prison at Mousb, and I approve the representations which you made to the Turkish Government on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 20.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 341.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1895.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 622 of the 25th ultimo relative to the use in Armenian schools in the Vilayet of Trebizond of copy-books bearing on their covers a likeness of Her Majesty the Queen.

I concur in your approval of the action taken by Mr. Longworth in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 21.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 342.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1895.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatches Nos. 623, 624, and 625 of the 25th ultimo relative to abuses in connection with the collecting of taxes from the Christians in the Mousb district.

I approve the representations which you made to the Turkish Government on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 22.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 343.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1895.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 617 of the 24th ultimo, reporting a conversation which you had with the Sultan on the subject of the recent attack on Consular officers at Jeddah.

I approve the language which you held to His Imperial Majesty on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 23.

M. Krompëusky to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

LE Chargé d'Affaires de Russie est chargé par son Gouvernement de communiquer à Lord Salisbury que l'Ambassadeur de Russie à Constantinople a reçu des instructions qui l'autorisent de se joindre à ses collègues d'Angleterre et de France pour adresser à la Porte une note collective qui ferait état des concessions déjà accordées par le Sultan et de celles sur lesquelles l'accord paraît s'être fait entre les trois Gouvernements, c'est-à-dire, l'adjonction de Chrétiens aux Valis et au Haut Commissaire et la participation des Chrétiens aux emplois publics.

Le Gouvernement Impérial pense que les désordres qui viennent de se produire à Constantinople rendent plus urgent que jamais d'accélérer la conclusion des négociations ayant trait à la question Arménienne.

Londres, le 5 Octobre, 1895.

No. 24.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 457.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 5, 1895, 12·30 P.M.*

MR. LONGWORTH telegraphs from Trebizond that an attempt was made last night by some armed bands of Mussulmans to create a disturbance, but that the authorities promptly restored order.

No. 25.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 458.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 5, 1895, 3:25 P.M.*

PANIC still reigns among the Armenian population; the churches are still full of refugees, and arrests continue. I sent a Dragoman yesterday to the Patriarch, but his Beatitude declares that he is unable to restrain his people, who are in a state of desperation.

Grave fears are entertained that the Armenian Committee is organizing some further demonstrations. Eighty bodies of Armenians which have been sent to the Armenian hospital showed by their condition that death was inflicted with frightful violence. Among the bodies was one of a pregnant woman who had been ripped open.

We receive constant accounts of inoffensive Armenians, mostly servants and working men, who have disappeared, and the number of those who have been killed must be very great.

There was a meeting of Ambassadors this evening, when it was decided to send in a note to the Porte, pressing for the adoption of some measures to restore public order and security.

We are sending the six stationnaires to their winter quarters at Tophane, as it is thought that their presence there may give some confidence to the Christians.

I have addressed a letter to the Grand Vizier asking permission for Mr. Lister to visit the prisons, which are crowded to a fearful extent, and where the prisoners are said to be subjected to the most cruel treatment, and to have been kept almost without food and water.

No. 26.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 460.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 6, 1895, 7:20 P.M.*

THE joint note of the Ambassadors was presented at the Porte to-day.

Nothing has been done by the Government to restore the public confidence, arrests are still made, and the general feeling of uneasiness continues, and it is rumoured that serious events may be looked for.

Artin Pasha went to-day, by order of the Sultan, to the Patriarchate, and with the assistance of the Patriarch endeavoured to persuade the refugees to leave the churches. This they refused to do, the Revolutionary Committee, it is said, having advised to remain. The Committee have also ordered Armenians to keep their places of business closed, with the result that many payments are suspended.

No. 27.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 631.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 1, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting Mr. Hampson's return from Bitlis, and the state of affairs there and on the road.

I have caused the facts to be communicated to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 28*.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 631.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 27, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Damascus reporting a disturbance in the Shaghoor quarter of that town in connection with the annual gathering of conscripts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 28*.

Acting Consul Meshaka to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Damascus, September 15, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the collection of conscripts for the present year has lately been ordered. Every "Thumn" (the eighth part of the town) gathered separately the number of conscripts and conducted them as usual to the military authorities in a crowded procession with firing of guns and the play of swords and sticks to the accompaniment of native drums. Nearly all these processions passed through the leading bazaars of this city without any disturbance. But this morning the "Thumn" of the so-called Shaghoor, on preparing to conduct their conscripts to head-quarters with the usual ceremony, were forbidden by the police official stationed there to carry arms or to use their drums. This exceptional prohibition offended them, and they insisted on their right to arrange the procession in the same way as the other parts of the town which had preceded them. The police official took offence, and, drawing his revolver, shot his disputant dead. Thereupon the people of the Shaghoor attacked the police official and his assistants with fire-arms and daggers. This resulted in wounding severely the officer and four of his gendarmes.

The local authorities, on receiving notice of the incident, sent the Chief of the Police with two Binbashis of the gendarmes and one Buluk of Regular troops. On reaching the spot they found the culprits had dispersed.

There is always fear of serious consequences resulting from these processions, and it is therefore desirable that the use of fire-arms and other weapons on such occasions should be prohibited.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASIF MESHAKA.

Inclosure 1 in No. 27.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, September* 16, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Moush, reporting his return from Bitlis, and offering some observations on the state of affairs there and in the district traversed on his journey.

Although Mr. Hampson is able to give a fairly good account of the present situation in Bitlis itself, and of the endeavours of the Acting Vali, Emner Bey, to correct abuses, he remarks with regret the continued employment of many of the creatures of the ex-Vali, Tahsin Pasha, and especially of the notorious Governor of the Bitlis prison, Abdul Kader, referred to in my despatches to your Excellency of the 15th May and the 18th July. He also draws attention to abuses in the collection of tithes in the villages round Bitlis, and the sufferings at the hands of the Kurds of the people of Vartennis and other Christian villages in the north-east corner of the Moush Plain. The Vartennis prisoners referred to in the last paragraph of Mr. Hampson's despatch are the remnant of those whose condemnation to fifteen years' imprisonment was reported by Mr. Hampson, when Acting Consul at Erzeroum, in his despatch of the 16th January, 1891, to Sir William White.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Moush, September* 8, 1895.

AS I had the honour to inform you by telegram to-day, I have returned from my visit to Bitlis.

I found the condition of things in that city fairly satisfactory, at all events a marked improvement on that which existed last year. The Acting Vali, Emner Bey, seems to be desirous of administering the province well, and of correcting the abuses which became so excessive under his predecessor. To do this must, of course, take time; bad and corrupt officials—the rule rather than the exception, I fear—trained in the school of Tahsin Pasha must by degrees be weeded out and replaced by others. Steps are being taken in this direction; but I was sorry to find a number of the creatures of the late Vali still occupying responsible posts, the worst instance being that the notorious Governor of the Bitlis prison, whose cruelties and misconduct have gained him such a bad name, still retains that office. This man should certainly be removed.

From Bitlis I went to Tadvan, and returned to Moush viâ Mount Nemrood, and the northern side of the plain.

In the villages round Bitlis the chief subject of complaint, beyond the continual outrages of local Kurds, was the extortions and abuses of the tithe-farmers ("multezzims"). Apart from active ill-treatment of the villagers, which is only too common, they all appear systematically to neglect their duties, and leave the crops lying for weeks on the open threshing-floors before they measure them, thus risking that the whole means of subsistence of the villagers for the winter should be destroyed by raid. I have called the attention of the Vali to this very serious matter.

Vartennis, and the few Christian villages in the north-east corner of the Moush Plain, are suffering grievously from the outrages and pillaging of the Kurds who occupy all the villages round, formerly the home of Moussa Bey. It is difficult to suggest a means to help them. If troops or police were sent for their protection, it is to be feared that, in many cases, the remedy would be as bad or worse than the disease. That the Christians should be allowed to possess arms, and to use them if necessary, would be the simplest method. From Vartennis, eight or nine of the men still remain in prison in Moush of those who were arrested about six years ago in connection with an affray resulting

from an attempt to carry off a bride. This affair is so well known to you that I need not repeat the details; but it is to be hoped that these prisoners may be released.

I have, &c
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

P.S.—Since writing the above I learn that last night Kurds killed a villager of Arnist, near Varteniis, who was trying to protect his fields.

C. S. H.

No. 28.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 635.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, October 1, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 619 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the return and death of the Bitlis Gendarmerie Commandant at Moush, Ahi Bey, and the failure of his mission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, September 16, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Moush, reporting the return thither from Sasun and death of the Bitlis Gendarmerie Commandant.

I learn from Dr. Reynolds that the belief is current in Susun that the Commandant died of poison administered to him by Kurds, and his mission seems to have proved a failure, the only result having been to excite the Sasun Kurds to further acts of hostility towards the Christians, and to convince them of the inability of the Bitlis authorities to take effective measures for their subjugation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Graves.

Moush, September 8, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to report that the Alai Bey returned from Sasun suffering from dysentery, and died here two days ago.

He brought back with him ten or twelve Kurdish prisoners, including two or three brigands; but none of the ringleaders of the Kurdish outlaws have been interfered with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

P.S.—I hear that, since the Alai Bey's visit, the Kurds are committing greater outrages than ever in Psnats Kavar, and that the Christians declare they must all leave that district unless means are at once taken to protect them.

C. S. H.

No. 29.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury:—(Received October 7.)

(No. 636.)
My Lord,

Therapia, October 1, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consular officers at Erzeroum and Moush respecting the present position of relief operations in Sasun.

A copy of a Report by Dr. Reynolds to the Constantinople Relief Committee is also inclosed.

I have called the attention of the local Committee to Mr. Graves' suggestion that an accountant should be provided to assist the missionaries in the work of distribution, and I would ask your Lordship to cause the contents of this despatch to be communicated to the Relief Committee in London.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, September 18, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Moush on the subject of the present position of relief operations in Sasun, inclosing a Report by Dr. Reynolds to the Relief Committee in Constantinople, dated Semal, the 9th September.

The re-establishment of the remnant of the Sasun and Talori people in their old homes would have been a manifest impossibility without the help of the British Relief Fund, as administered on the spot by Messrs. Reynolds, Cole, and Knapp, and supported by the presence of Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson and by the strong representations of your Excellency at Constantinople, whereby the obstacles raised by the local authorities have been successively overcome. But, as Mr. Hampson and Dr. Reynolds both point out, all that has been done so far will have been labour in vain unless means are shortly found to assure these people of means over the coming winter, without which they must either starve or again abandon their villages and seek a living wherever they can find it; and this must be provided for in the next two months, before the mountain-roads are blocked with snow. The sum required for rations will be greatly reduced if some proportion at least of the stolen flocks and herds, on whose produce the villagers largely depended for food, can be replaced, at a cost estimated by Dr. Reynolds at nearly 7,000*l.* It is true that the restitution of the stolen sheep and cattle seems incumbent on the Turkish Government, whose failure to take any step in this direction is largely answerable for the present distress.

For these purposes Mr. Hampson reckons that about 15,000*l.* will be required, and I believe that, under the circumstances, there would be no difficulty in raising this sum before it is too late, if the money which is readily forthcoming from Armenian sources, but which cannot be applied owing to the interference of the authorities, could be united with the British Relief Fund and made immediately available.

The other essential to the ultimate success of these relief operations is the continuance of the present foreign superintendence and official support until the distressed district is again made self-supporting. The task which they have voluntarily undertaken weighs very heavily upon the small missionary staffs of Bitlis and Van, and, if it is to be carried out to the end, I venture to suggest to the Relief Committee the advisability of providing them, if possible, with some assistant capable of taking charge of accounts and correspondence, and of relieving one or other of the missionaries in case of need.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Graves.

Moush, September 10, 1895.

Sir,

THE inclosed Report from Dr. Reynolds on his visit to the Talori district has only reached me shortly before post leaves, and it is therefore possible for me to make but very few comments on it.

I would first point out that, from all the information which I have been able to gather, a sum of about 15,000*l.* will be required to enable the surviving villagers of Sasun and Talori (some 5,000 at least) who were left destitute by the events of last year to exist through the coming winter. Dr. Reynolds considers that 7,000*l.* will be required to provide absolutely requisite cattle and sheep alone.

The 2,000*l.* sent from England has been invaluable as providing the people with means of subsistence for the moment; and also, by rebuilding a certain number of houses in each village, and providing a certain amount of clothing, will, we hope, place the villagers in a position to be supported until such time as they can again earn their own livelihood, viz., five or six months hence. As a means of permanent relief, it is alone totally inadequate.

With this knowledge, I have ventured to urge the missionaries—in spite of the advice of the Committee at Constantinople to reserve as much as possible of this 2,000*l.* for the maintenance of the sufferers during the winter—to consider rather how best to expend this sum in building, clothing, &c., so as to make possible the support of these villagers during four or five months from other sources. If such other resources should not be forthcoming, all that is now done must eventually be useless, and these people must either starve or go forth to try and find a living elsewhere.

The only other point to which I have time to call your attention is to Dr. Reynolds' remarks about the visit of the Alai Bey to Sasun, and the present attitude of the Kurds, proving the worse than futility of that visit (*vide* my despatches of the 21st August and 8th September).

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 29.

Dr. Reynolds to Mr. Whittall.

Semal, September 9, 1895.

Dear Sir,

I AM happy to report that Mr. Knapp, who made this trip in Mr. Cole's place, and myself returned safely from our trip to Dalvori on Saturday, and I will try to get time amid the press of work, which our absence necessarily increases, to give you a little idea of what we saw and did.

It was our plan to leave here on Thursday, but when Mr. Knapp reached Moush, although he had come by express arrangement with the Vali to make this trip, the Mutessarif, because, forsooth, he found an expression to the effect that he was at liberty to visit all places where there were Protestants in his "bouralty,"[a] refused permission to come, till he could communicate with the Vali. He waited twenty-four hours or more, and then came along, his permission arriving later. We were able to get off on Friday, taking with us the "oosta bashi" and a number of "oostas" for Dalvori and Gheliégnzan, at which last place we spent the first night. The people of this last village are unusually childish, and for some time have been very jealous of this village because we had established our central depôt here, and said that unless we would remove our whole establishment to their village they would not do anything about building their houses. We had repeatedly told them that we came here because it was the most central and appropriate place for our purposes, not at all because we were favouring the village over others. We hoped now, when we brought "oostas" and a superintendent, they would be persuaded to put away that childishness. We agreed that we would not insist on their coming here to get the food for the workmen, and did

[a] "Bouralty" = permit.

all we could to conciliate them; but it was of no use, and we were forced to send back the men who had come for work, and leave them to meditate on their ways for a while. It seems they went to Moush to lay their grievances before the Arachnort, and he finally persuaded them to give up their foolishness, and the workmen went back.

Once across the river, and the difficulties of the Dalvori roads made themselves evident. While the general level of the country is lower than that of this place, it is much more wild, consisting of rugged mountains, with deep valleys running at all angles among them; the sides, for the most part, too steep to admit of cultivation or of buildings being placed upon them; but here and there are little places where the slope is a little less perpendicular, and by dint of much labour a few fields have been made tillable, and places found where the corresponding houses can be made to cling. So the population is scattered thus in little hamlets of from five to ten houses, often separated in a direct line not more than one-eighth to half a mile, while a hard climb of several times that distance is necessary to go from one to the other. There is hardly a place where a horse can go with a rider all the way from one hamlet to another, and many of the roads we went on foot were quite impossible for a horse. To visit some villages we made foot excursions from our camp, and one day made the entire day's march on foot, sending the horses by another road. We left what "oostas" we had with us in these places where they could do the most effective work, and took notes that will enable me to send others, as we can secure them, so that while the work of reconstruction begins very late, we are not without hope that enough can be done, so that, by crowding, all the people can be brought under shelter before winter sets in. The spirit manifested by the people there is much more noble than at Gheliégnzan, and we hope work will go on harmoniously.

On our return we spent the last night at Aghpik, and the previous morn at Hertink, both of them among the ruined villages which are receiving rations and help in building from our funds, and we found that both villages had just received visits from Kurdish Aghas, demanding the old-time levy of money, or else the "gorek," that is now beginning to ripen in their fields, and which may, if all secured to the villages, last them for two months. The villagers referred them to the Government, and they replied that they did not know the Government, and were no longer afraid of any interference from that source. It seems that the Alai Bey of Bitlis, who has been up among these Kurds with a contingent of soldiers, has just died, and, it is generally believed, in consequence of poison administered by the Kurds. These occurrences, with the news of the rejection of the reform scheme, have caused a good deal of a feeling of discouragement among the people, and some of them are half inclined to give up hope, and prepare for flight, but we try to infuse courage and hope, which it is somewhat difficult to keep bright in our own hearts.

We left our Secretary at Dalvori to distribute the goods we carried down, and to superintend the issuing of rations for the workmen, &c., while another good man remained with him to get familiar with the work, and continue it after he leaves. It is a very important question to consider where the winter supply of food is to come from for all these regions, for the snows will make communication impossible for two or three months from now, and it is important to push in five or six months' supplies before the season breaks up. To supply even the insufficient rations thus far issued, viz., 20 paras a-day for each person for five months, to 5,000 people, requires 8,750*l.* This makes no account of the animals they must have before they can be considered at all re-established, and you will remember that our estimate for accomplishing this at all adequately was near 7,000*l.* If these animals were supplied, it would materially assist the feeding problem after milk begins, say in March or April, but not much till that time. Now will not your Committee consult with that of the Patriarch, and devise ways and means for raising this money, and that so quickly that the needed provisions can be rushed in, especially to Dalvori, before the roads are closed?

In this trip of nine days we have visited fifteen villages, and seen three others across the ravine, of the burnt villages. Several of these consist of several different hamlets, more or less separated. We also saw three or four other villages which were robbed but not burned, and which we have not yet felt justified in helping, though their needs are very great, and they constantly pleading to be included in the list of beneficiaries.

Respectfully submitted.

(Signed) G. C. REYNOLDS.

No. 30.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 638.) *Constantinople, October 1, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the ill-treatment of Armenians in Malatia, and inclosing a Petition from the Palu Armenians to the three Embassies and the Patriarchate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, September 20, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, to your Excellency extracts from a private letter which I have received from the Rev. Dr. Barnum, dated Kharpout, 17th September, reporting cases of oppression and ill-treatment of Armenians at Malatia, and transmitting a copy of a Memorial said to have been signed by 800 to 1,000 Armenians of Palu and neighbourhood, and addressed to the British, Russian, and French Ambassadors at Constantinople, as well as to the Armenian Patriarch, the bearer of which was arrested in Keghi about the 25th August. Dr. Barnum states that the signatories of this document are now apprehensive of ill-treatment at the hands of the authorities for having put their names to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

P.S.—I have communicated the copy of the Palu Memorial to my French and Russian colleagues.

R. W. G.

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

The Rev. Dr. Barnum to Consul Graves.

(Private.) *Kharpout, September 7, 1895.*

(Extract.)

ON Friday night of last week (30th August), in Malátia, Hagop Merakian heard some one digging a hole through the wall of his house. His son, Aharon, fired at the burglar, who escaped. Word was at once given to the police, who came and found that a hole had been dug through the wall, but the burglar had been stopped by boards within. In searching about they found a zaptieh dead in a garden near by with a bullet-wound, and with tools for digging by him. Hagop and his son are in prison on the charge of murder.

The same day, in the same city, an Armenian, Muksi Krikor by name, asked a Malazim (Lieutenant) Omer Effendi for a sum of money due to him. He said, "Come to the mosque, and I will give it." He then drew his sword and struck at him, but he only cut his ear. He then threw him to the ground and trampled on him. Representations were made to the Mutessarif about these and similar offences by some leading Christians, but it was as though nothing had been said.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have received the inclosed. It is a copy of a document sent from Palu to Keghi by messenger, and addressed to the three Ambassadors and the Patriarch. The four documents were seized in Keghi twelve days ago, and the messenger is in prison there. The documents are said to have 800 to 1,000 signatures from Palu and its villages. The signatures of each village are certified by the seal of the

Moukhtar. Now the signatories are in a good deal of trepidation lest they may be tortured for sending such a paper. I presume the documents were to have gone to Erzeroum to be given to the Consuls for transmission to their respective Embassies.

Inclosure 3 in No. 30.

Petition to British, Russian, and French Ambassadors.

(Translation.)

Honoured Sir,

WE, the Undersigned, deem it our duty to beg that you will present to your Governments our deep thanks for that effort by which you have endeavoured to ameliorate the condition of our country by means of the scheme of Armenian reforms which we have had the honour to read.

But may we be pardoned for saying that the (scheme of) reforms are not new? We have been disappointed in our just expectations, which, on the contrary, should have long ago been realized.

Honoured Sir, it is well known to you that when the law is placed in the hands of unfit persons it becomes a dead letter, though in itself it may be a most beautiful law. Is this not true of the Turkish Government, which, contrary to its humane laws, is found pursuing a barbarous course? Is it not superfluous to commit the scheme of Armenian reforms to His Majesty the Sultan?

We fancy our wounds, ere they are healed, will bleed afresh; the distress of oppression on the one hand and the economical distress on the other threaten to swallow us up.

If, as cannot be doubted, that scheme is to be considered a means for a nation to progress in trade and knowledge, to rise materially and morally, and one day become a useful element in humane society, then the High Commissioner mentioned in the scheme, instead of being a Turkish subject or a foreigner found in the service of the Ottoman Government, should be an independent European with well-defined conditions of office. He should be appointed by the European Powers, to whom alone he should be responsible for his work.

Honourable Sir, we earnestly desire and entreat that on our behalf you will call the attention of your High Government to this most important point, on which depends the significance of the word "life" to us.

It is unnecessary to say that we are full of hope that you will present to your Government this expression of the hope of our city and the Armenian community at large. We believe that you realize deeply the necessities of the situation, and that even before we appeal you will make the necessary representations in the fit and proper places.

Honoured Sir, be pleased to accept our humble thanks.

We remain, &c.
(800 to 1,000 signatures, inhabitants of Palu and neighbourhood.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 30.

Petition to the Armenian Patriarch.

(Translation.)

Most honourable Holy Father,

ON behalf of the local community a Petition concerning Armenian reforms has been presented to the English, French and Russian Ambassadors, a copy of which we have the honour to present to Your Holiness, entreating that you take it into consideration and do what is proper in the circumstances.

Kissing your holy eyes, &c.

(800 to 1,000 signatures, inhabitants of Palu and neighbourhood.)

No. 31.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 641.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 2, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting the arrival in that neighbourhood of 1,200 Circassian emigrants from the Caucasus.

I am communicating to the Grand Vizier the contents of Mr. Fontana's despatch, with the exception of the last paragraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, September 24, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of your Excellency, the arrival in Angora of a number of Circassian Mahommedans from the Caucasus, who have received the Sultan's permission to settle in Turkey.

The Vali informs me that 5,000 emigrants in all were expected here, but that of these, only 1,200, including men, women, and children, have actually arrived, the remainder having refused to embark at the last moment. They will be drafted off, in all probability, to Ak-Tegh Maden or Boghazlian, in the Sandjak of Yozgat, where certain tracts of land are to be allowed to them for cultivation or for cattle-rearing.

These emigrants are ignorant of the Turkish language, and, judging from those I have seen, appear to be very poor; although well armed with pistols and other weapons, they are unprovided with agricultural implements of any kind, nor are they likely to possess the means for purchasing a sufficient stock of cattle for breeding purposes. The greater part of their baggage, moreover, has been retained, I am informed, by the Railway Company, owing to their refusal to pay their fare from Ismidt to this town.

The prospects of these Circassians are, at the present moment, by no means bright, nor is their immigration calculated to contribute in any way to the prosperity of the vilayet.

The districts they are to settle in are bare and unproductive. Their arrival in Turkey has been most ill-timed; snow has already fallen on the highlands around Angora, and the emigrants will scarcely find the time or the materials for building huts for their shelter before the winter sets in, and will therefore, in all probability, undergo great hardships and suffering before the spring.

The Circassians in Turkey, as a class, do not enjoy a reputation either for honesty or for thrift, in fact, they are considered to be the most expert and inveterate cattle-stealers, and the most unsuccessful agriculturs. In the latter respect they offer a striking contrast to the Tartar emigrants—some of whom are settled in the outskirts of this town—who have gained a name for industry and thrift, and are said to be far more successful in farming than the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 32.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 642.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 2, 1895.*

ON receipt of the inclosed despatch from Mr. Graves, I instructed Mr. Mariniteh to bring to the knowledge of the Grand Vizier that, according to reports received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, there were still forty-three Armenian political prisoners under detention who should have profited by the recent amnesty granted by

the Sultan, and, further, to call his Highness' attention to the fact that some of these prisoners were detained without any sentence having been passed upon them.

Mr. Mariniteh was to express the hope that these prisoners would be released, and to give to the Grand Vizier the names of the officers mentioned by Mr. Hampson as being chiefly responsible for their unjust detention and ill-treatment in prison.

The Grand Vizier at once telegraphed to the Vali of Van to inquire into and report upon the complaints made by Mr. Hampson.

I at the same time instructed Mr. Mariniteh to draw the attention of the Grand Vizier to the hard case of the prisoner Erko, of Shenik, whose continued detention in the unhealthy prison in spite of the amnesty was entirely unjustifiable, the more so as the only crime that could be laid to his charge was that he had given evidence before the Sasun Commission.

His Highness the same day telegraphed to the Vali of Bitlis, calling his attention to my representations, and I am now informed by Mr. Hampson that Erko has been released on bail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, September 10, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th August, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting the release of eight more Armenian political prisoners there, while forty-three, who, in Mr. Hallward's opinion, should have profited by the recent amnesty, are still detained.

Mr. Hallward expresses the earnest hope that these men, some of whom have been imprisoned for years without trial, may be speedily released, and that the judicial and police officials chiefly responsible for their unjust detention and ill-treatment while in prison may be dismissed. These are Khalil Khouloussi Effendi, Emin Effendi, and Nouri Effendi, the latter of whom is well known to me by reputation as an inhuman persecutor of the Van Armenians.

I venture to take this opportunity of again drawing your Excellency's attention to the hard case of the prisoner Erko, of Shenik, who was an important witness before the Commission of Inquiry, and whose imprisonment on a trumped-up charge of murder was undoubtedly intended to punish him for his fearless testimony, as pointed out in my despatch of the 8th ultimo.

I am told that Sheik Bey, the President of the Commission, solemnly assured his son before leaving Mush that Erko would be released very shortly, and his continued detention in the deadly prison at Mush which has killed so many of his fellows, in spite of the so-called amnesty to political offenders, is a scandal which should be put an end to without further delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, September 3, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th ultimo, I have the honour to report that, on the occasion of the Sultan's accession, eight more Armenian political prisoners were released, viz., Dilloh and Cavas, mentioned in that despatch, and Nos. 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 of the list inclosed in my despatch of the 23rd April last.

There remain, therefore, in prison Nos. 10 to 15 inclusive, 32 to 48 inclusive, 57, 85 to 90 inclusive, of those on the list in the last-named despatch, together with Zado, Ohannes Kasarjian, Kevork Moushli, and Avedis Gheligbian, mentioned in despatch of the 14th ultimo.

I would beg to call your special attention to the fact that there is no sentence against any of these men, in spite of the fact that six of them have been in prison for three years; seven for two years and eight months; one, Avedis Ghelighian, for nearly two years; two, Manouk Eljevazli (No. 57) and Ohannes Kasarjian, for a year and four months; and the rest for various periods exceeding nine months, except Zado, who has been in prison for four months.

If these men are guilty of the offences imputed to them, why have they not been condemned to their proper punishments? The answer is that there is no evidence against them.

The methods of justice prevailing here are well exemplified in the Shatlakh case, as reported in the last part of my despatch of the 14th May last. A Kurd killed a Turk Lieutenant in the army for having illicit connection with one of his female relatives. Two months after eight Armenians were arrested, one of whom was released on payment of a bribe; twenty-one months after that ten more were arrested; they were brought up for trial in April last; Zado, the principal witness against them, denied all knowledge of the affair, though he had been forced to give a deposition against them. Zado was accordingly imprisoned, and the trial postponed, and so the affair rests up to date.

The case of Avedis Ghelighian is reported in the latter part of my despatch of the 28th June last.

That of Manouk Eljevazli and Ohannes Kasarjian is identical with that of the two priests, Kevork and Daniel, who were sent to Constantinople in April last, and released (*vide* my despatch of the 16th April). As the priests have been released, one would suppose that these men would be released as well.

The only offence that can really be charged against the fifteen Armenians in prison at Shatlakh is that of having attempted to defend their property against the Kurds. It is remarkable that while there are thirty-four Armenians of Shatlakh in prison for imaginary offences, Mehemed Aga, a notorious Kurdish brigand, is (or was two months ago) a Government official there, and Shakir, an assassin and robber of the worst description, as well as many other brigands, go scot-free and plunder that district at their ease (*vide* my despatch of the 28th June).

I earnestly hope that positive orders will soon be sent for the release of all these forty-three prisoners, and that a change will be made in the staff of legal officers under whom so much injustice has been perpetrated. I have mentioned in former despatches Khalil Khouloussi Effendi, President of the Criminal Court of Appeal, and Emin Effendi, Procureur-Général, as officials whose removal is especially desirable, and I have also made similar mention of Nouri Effendi, Head of Police, who is chiefly responsible for the bad treatment of prisoners and who exercised a very bad influence over the late Vali, Bahri Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 33.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 643.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 2, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 534 of the 20th August, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have been informed by Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum that on the 16th September seven Armenian prisoners implicated in the frontier affair of Kara Kilisse were released from prison, among them being the naturalized American citizen Hamut Simonian, referred to in Mr. Graves' despatch, which formed the inclosure in my despatch to your Lordship No. 487 of the 24th July.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 34.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 646.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 3, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah, reporting on the state of affairs in the Hedjaz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Acting Consul Alban to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Jeddah, September 16, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Vali and the Grand Shereef arrived at Mecca from Taïf on the 9th and 10th instant respectively. They are believed to have taken this step in consequence of orders which they have received from Constantinople, and it is expected that they will shortly proceed to Jeddah.

Sheikh Ahmed Essad left on the 3rd instant for Constantinople. It is reported that, before his departure, he said that he would endeavour to secure the dismissal of the present Vali, and this, if the report be correct, may have been the origin of the rumours which prevailed here about that time that Ratib Pasha would shortly be removed.

The late Kaimakam left by the same steamer, the Vali having, I am informed, at his urgent entreaty, allowed him to leave, although the inquiry to which I referred in my despatch of the 2nd instant is not yet concluded.

Since it became known that the troops had received orders to fire on the Bedouins if necessary, no more robberies on the Mecca road have been reported. On the 12th instant a caravan of about fifty-five camels was attacked by Bedouins on the road from Medina to Jeddah, at a distance of about 60 miles from here. The travellers, who were natives of Mecca, were robbed of all their effects by the Bedouins, who, however, left them their camels. The robbers are said to belong to the Aoof, one of the subdivisions of the Harb tribe.

With reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to state that, not having received any information from the Vali on the subject of the inquiry into the conduct of the soldiers at Kettani, I have written to his Excellency requesting that he will inform me whether the inquiry has taken place, and, if so, what was the result of it.

With regard to the arrest of the murderers of the late Dr. Abdur Razzack, I have the honour to state that, as far as I can learn, no progress has been made since I last reported to your Excellency on this subject, and that, according to information which I have received, and which is derived from the Shereef's agent, Omar Nassif, nothing was accomplished by the Vali and Grand Shereef during their stay at Taïf. I have therefore written to the Vali to-day inquiring how soon he expects to be in a position to effect the arrest of the murderers, and again drawing his attention to the length of time which has elapsed since the outrage was committed.

An incident which has not yet reached a satisfactory termination recently occurred at Mecca. A cavass of the French Consulate here obtained leave to proceed to Mecca for a few days on account of ill-health. On the 7th instant, the day after his arrival at Mecca, the house in which he was residing, and which is occupied by his father and mother, was entered by the police, who inflicted a sword-cut on the cavass, and otherwise maltreated him, and assaulted his father and mother. After a short imprisonment the cavass was, in consequence of the strong protests of the French Consul, released. The authorities state that the cavass and his family were drunk and disorderly, but the latter deny this, and the French Consular authorities are inclined to believe that the action of the police was due to a supposition on their part that the cavass had come to Mecca to act as a spy on behalf of the French Consulate here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 35.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 648.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 3, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 208 of the 9th May, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo respecting the position of Christians at Djibin, in the Sandjak of Urfa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Aleppo, September* 16, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 3rd and 29th April last, I have the honour to again bring to your Excellency's notice the position of the Christians at Djibin, in the Sandjak of Urfa.

I have already reported that a young Armenian girl had been carried off from the village, that her brother had avenged her by killing her seducer, and that thirty of the villagers were imprisoned at Khalfat for complicity in his death.

Of these, four have since been condemned to long terms of imprisonment, the remainder having returned to Djibin about a month ago. The Kurd who was killed belongs to a village near at hand, Omerli, in the Caza of Khalfat, and the men of Omerli have declared a war of revenge against the people of Djibin.

When those who had been acquitted had returned but a few days to Djibin, the Kurds came down from Omerli, and laid before the Armenians three alternatives:—

1. That all of them should turn Moslem.
2. That four virgins should be surrendered to the men of Omerli.
3. That payment should be made to the family of the murdered Kurd of 25,000 piastres.

Failing compliance with one of these alternatives they would be massacred.

Some of the villagers then went to the Kaimakam of Khalfat and asked for protection, but they were sent away with the answer that what they had suffered was slight punishment for having caused the death of a Moslem.

They then wrote a Petition to the Vali of Aleppo, and sent copies of the Petition to every Consulate, with a request that the Consuls would intercede with the authorities on their behalf.

I forwarded the Petition to the Vali on the 28th ultimo, stating that, as the facts complained of were exceedingly grave, I hoped his Excellency would think it an act of friendship that I should bring them to his notice. I have had no reply, and have no positive knowledge that the Vali took action in the matter. Whether he did so or not, the result is unsatisfactory, for I yesterday received information that, in consequence of fresh troubles, the villagers have been obliged to send all their young women to the care of friends in Birejlik and Urfa, and entire families are leaving the place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

No. 36.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 650.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 3, 1895.

AS I telegraphed to your Lordship on the 30th ultimo, a communication bearing the seal of the "Hindchag," the Armenian Revolutionary Committee, was addressed to the Embassies on the 28th ultimo, stating that a strictly peaceful demonstration was about to be made by the Armenians in order to express their desire for reforms. A

copy of this communication is inclosed, together with a Memorial received from the same source, which appears to be a copy of an Address drawn up for presentation to the Porte.

The demonstration took place on the 30th ultimo, but unhappily it had not the peaceful character attributed to it.

The demonstrators were armed with pistols and knives of an uniform pattern which had no doubt been issued to them by the organizers of the movement.

There is good reason to suppose that the object of the "Hindchag" was to cause disorder and bloodshed with the view of inducing the Powers of Europe to intervene on behalf of the Armenians.

It is stated that 3,000 persons took the Sacrament in the various Armenian churches on the preceding Sunday in order to be prepared for death.

I am told that the Patriarch besought the congregation at the Cathedral church of Koum Kapou in the most earnest manner to abstain from deeds of violence, and to trust to the efforts which were being made on their behalf by some of the Powers, but his discourse was ill-received. A young Armenian springing up shouted, "We have waited long enough," and a rush was made towards the Patriarch, who took hasty refuge in his private apartments.

On the morning of the 30th ultimo, crowds of Armenians assembled in various quarters of the town, the largest assemblage being in the Armenian quarter of Koum Kapou. They proceeded towards the Porte in numbers, estimated by eye-witnesses at about 2,000, though this is probably an exaggeration.

The authorities appear to have taken some steps to organize a counter-demonstration, and it was observed that an unusual number of Softahs and other Turks armed with sticks were collected in the streets.

The police appear to have made some effort to induce the crowd to retire peaceably.

According to the statement made by the Minister of Police to one of the Dragomans of the Embassy, he deputed Server Bey, a Major in whom he had special confidence, to urge the crowd to disperse.

On their refusing to do so, and stating their intention of proceeding to the Porte, he ordered his men to drive back the crowd with the flat of their swords and the butt-end of their muskets. At the same time, two mounted gendarmes seized upon the leader of the procession, who carried the Memorial which it was intended to present to the Porte. Shots were then exchanged. It is said that the first which was fired proceeded from the Armenians and killed the Major of Gendarmes.

After a time, the Armenians fled in all directions, leaving many of their number on the ground: about thirty of the police, including four officers, were killed or wounded in the course of the day. The flying mob was pursued by the police and the Softahs, and other Turks then joined in the fray.

Prince Albert of Schleswig Holstein Sonderburg Glücksburg and the nephew of the German Ambassador, who happened to be passing, saw close to their carriage an Armenian whose arms were held by several men while others beat him on the head with sticks, when he fell on the ground in an insensible condition, a zaptieh advanced and finished him by firing two shots into his body.

Similar acts are reported by other witnesses and it was specially noticed that the police stood by and even held the victims while they were beaten to death by private individuals.

The wounded prisoners appear to have been treated with great brutality and the porter of the British Consulate, who had gone to the Ministry of Police on business, saw four men brought in by the police and bayonetted as soon as they entered the gates of the courtyard.

The most serious feature of this unfortunate outbreak appears to be the violence exercised by the Softahs and other Turks with the consent, if not by the directions, of the authorities. This violence still continued yesterday. Armenians were attacked in all directions and many appear to have been killed. In one instance which occurred in Galata they resisted their assailants and shots were fired on both sides. Several khans, occupied by Armenians in various parts of the town, have also been invaded and the inmates massacred.

If these proceedings are not promptly put a stop to, it is to be feared that the lives of other Christians, and even of foreigners, may be in danger. Many Armenians have taken refuge in the churches; the rest generally remain in their houses. In the church of the Patriarchate at Koum Kapou from 500 to 1,000 armed men are collected.

Urgent messages have been sent to the Patriarch to send them away, but he has protested his inability to do so, and the issues are guarded by gendarmes.

An informal meeting took place yesterday morning at the house of the Austrian Ambassador, at which my Russian and German colleagues and I were present. It was decided to make the communication, of which a copy is inclosed, to the Foreign Minister, and this was accordingly done yesterday afternoon.

On learning from my Dragoman that Turkhan Pasha had received our representations with apparent indifference, and according to his usual habit had denied the truth of the facts brought to his knowledge, I thought it desirable to communicate at once with the Grand Vizier, who had been summoned to the Palace before the Dragomans arrived at the Porte. I accordingly sent him the telegram, of which a copy is inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

The Armenian Revolutionary Committee to Sir P. Currie.

Excellence, *Constantinople, le* 16 (28) *Septembre*, 1895.

LES Arméniens de Constantinople ayant décidé de faire prochainement une manifestation tout à fait pacifique pour exprimer leur desiderata concernant les réformes à introduire dans les provinces Arméniennes, et cette manifestation ne devant avoir aucun caractère agressif, l'intervention de la police et de la force armée pour l'empêcher pourrait avoir des conséquences regrettables dont nous repoussons d'avance toute la responsabilité.

Comité Organisateur:
(Seal of the Hintchak Society).

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Petition.

LA population Arménienne de Constantinople et celle des provinces Asiatiques se trouvant dans la capitale, d'un accord unanime, ont organisé cette manifestation afin de protester solennellement contre l'état actuel des choses dans notre pays et de présenter à la Sublime Porte les réclamations du peuple Arménien.

Nous voulons aujourd'hui en attirant sur nous une fois de plus son attention, dire au monde civilisé la résolution inébranlable que nous avons prise de ne plus supporter la désastreuse et inique situation qui est faite à notre peuple.

Nous protestons contre la systématique persécution dont notre peuple est l'objet, surtout ces quelques années, persécution érigée par la Sublime Porte en principe gouvernemental ayant pour seul but de faire disparaître les Arméniens de leur propre pays—fait abondamment prouvé d'un côté par les rapports des Consuls et des correspondants de journaux Européens et d'un autre par les rapports officiels et les plaintes continuelles qui affluent au Patriarcat national.

Nous protestons contre l'état de siège que subit notre pays depuis quelques années—siège qui est la source même de tout l'arbitraire existant dans l'administration et qui est la cause principale de la pauvreté de notre peuple.

Nous protestons contre les innombrables arrestations politiques; contre les tortures barbares et inhumaines que l'on fait subir aux détenus; contre les actes de sauvagerie des Kurdes ainsi que contre les exactions iniques des fonctionnaires et des percepteurs d'impôts.

Nous protestons contre le massacre de Sassoun où, et c'est un fait aujourd'hui avéré, des milliers de nos frères et sœurs qui avaient osé demander une garantie de sécurité pour leurs corps et biens ainsi que la sauvegarde de leur honneur et de la libre pratique des exercices de leur culte, ont été traités en insurgés et par cela même passés par les armes et baignés dans leur propre sang.

Nous protestons également contre les incessantes attaques à main armée commises

journellement par les Kurdes et les troupes régulières Turques; attaques contre le renouvellement desquels aucune garantie ne nous a été donnée jusqu'à aujourd'hui malgré toutes les promesses faites depuis les affaires de Sassoun.

Notre peuple a besoin de la paix et de la sécurité indispensables à une nation désireuse d'acquérir justement un bien-être relatif, certes légitime, et de se mettre au niveau du progrès et de la civilisation vers lesquels marchent les autres peuples.

C'est au nom de ces légitimes aspirations que—

Nous réclamons de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et de l'Europe des droits légaux nous garantissant d'une manière absolue la sécurité de nos corps et biens, la sauvegarde et le respect dus à notre honneur.

Nous réclamons la liberté de la conscience, de la presse, et des assemblées publiques; l'égalité absolue de tout devant la loi.

Nous réclamons que toute arrestation ait sa justification immédiate devant les Tribunaux;* que le port d'armes nous soit autorisé.†

Nous réclamons la diminution du nombre des divisions administratives dans les six provinces (vilayets) Arméniennes de Erzeroum, Bitlis, Van, Sivas, Mamouret-ul-Aziz, et Diarbékir.

Cette réduction devra être effectuée de manière à répartir en divisions ethnographiques homogènes les populations des dits vilayets.

Nous réclamons la création d'un poste de Gouverneur-Général de ces six vilayets, poste qui devra être confié dans tous les cas à un Européen, délégué par les Puissances d'accord avec la Porte. Ce fonctionnaire devra gouverner le pays confié à sa gérance au nom de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, avec le concours d'une Assemblée Locale, dont les membres seront élus par le suffrage universel, sans distinction ni de race, ni de religion, ni de position sociale.

Nous réclamons l'introduction de réformes spéciales correspondant au sens et à l'esprit général de la présente déclaration dans les parties des vilayets d'Adana et d'Aleppo, où les Arméniens forment une partie importante de la population.

Nous réclamons des réformes dans l'organisation de la police et de la gendarmerie; des mesures suffisantes pour rendre impossible le retour d'événements pareils à celui de Sassoun.

Nous réclamons aussi que l'armée n'ait aucune ingérence dans le maintien de l'ordre public.

Nous réclamons des réformes économiques correspondant aux besoins locaux telles que la diminution des impôts; la suppression de la corvée des travaux gratuits seigneuriaux (pour les Beys et Aghas); l'abolition du fermage de la dîme; la création d'un système unique d'impôts uniforme pour tout le pays; la suppression des illégales contributions imposées par les Kurdes (Kiafirlick, &c.) des réformes spéciales propres à l'expropriation forcée des propriétaires Arméniens, et à la distribution de leurs terres aux Kurdes, ce qui a lieu surtout dans les districts montagneux; par contre, nous demandons que des parcelles de terrain soient concédées aux paysans qui n'en ont pas.

Nous réclamons que l'on interdise aux Kurdes nomades leurs pérégrinations périodiques, et que devenus sédentaires ils soient contraints d'obéir aux lois existantes, et de se soumettre aux impôts que paient tous les autres habitants du pays. On devra supprimer également l'organisation des Kurdes en tribus dépendant de Chefs de clans ("achirets"). Les troupes irrégulières de cavalerie (Hamidié) nouvellement créées devront être licenciées, et les Kurdes astreints au service militaire à l'instar de tous les autres sujets Ottomans.

Nous réclamons que les revenus du pays soient principalement, et en premier lieu, consacrés aux besoins locaux.

Nous réclamons enfin une amnistie générale sans aucune exception, pour tous les détenus exilés et émigrés politiques Arméniens.

Nous sommes fermement convaincus que la réalisation des desiderata formulés plus haut est indispensable tant pour la sécurité et le bien-être général des Arméniens que pour ceux des différentes populations habitant notre pays et notre malheureux peuple ainsi que pour tout l'Empire Ottoman.

Depuis les horribles événements de Sassoun, une année s'est écoulée pendant laquelle nous avons attendu patiemment une solution prompte et efficace émanant des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin. Cette attente est la meilleure preuve de nos intentions pacifiques.

* Justification devant faire éviter la durée de la prison préventive et les arrestations arbitraires.
† Etant donné l'impossible de désarmer les Kurdes.

Toutefois, l'hiver Arménien accompagné de toutes ses rigueurs et de ses difficultés s'approche de telle sorte qu'une action immédiate et énergique s'impose d'urgence.

C'est pourquoi nous nous sommes décidés à rappeler d'une façon décisive et démonstrative à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et aux Puissances la nécessité absolue d'une solution favorable et imminente de la question Arménienne.

C'est pourquoi nous leur exposons d'une façon générale nos légitimes réclamations de réformes dont l'application peut seul assurer la paix et la sécurité à notre pays depuis si longtemps voué à la persécution inique et aux troubles les plus sanglants.

Constantinople, le 30 Septembre, 1895.

Inclosure 3 in No. 36.

Communication made to the Sublime Porte, October 2, 1895.

L'AMBASSADEUR d'Autriche-Hongrie et ses collègues ont reçu des nouvelles certaines, en partie par des témoins oculaires, des faits qui se sont passés à Stamboul hier et avant-hier, à savoir:—

1. Que des particuliers ont frappé et assommé des prisonniers conduits par des agents de police sans que ces derniers s'y opposassent.

2. Que des attaques des particuliers contre des gens absolument inoffensifs se sont produits.

3. Qu'on a achevé de sang froid dans les cours de la police et des prisons des prisonniers blessés.

Les Ambassades redoutant que la continuation de pareils excès ne devienne un danger pour la sécurité publique et pour les intérêts qui leur sont confiés, croient devoir y attirer l'attention la plus sérieuse du Gouvernement Impérial et de lui recommander, puisqu'il n'appartient qu'à l'autorité de se charger de la répression des désordres, de ne pas permettre aux particuliers de prendre part à la répression des troubles ni de se livrer eux-mêmes à des excès et de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour le plus prompt rétablissement de l'ordre, en évitant une effusion de sang inutile.

Inclosure 4 in No. 36.

Sir P. Currie to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.) *Le 2 Octobre*, 1895.

J'APPELLE l'attention de votre Altesse et celle du Gouvernement Impérial sur la communication faite aujourd'hui par les premiers Dragomans des cinq Grandes Puissances à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères. Selon les nouvelles qui me parviennent de tous côtés, des massacres d'Arméniens ont eu lieu dans les khans qu'ils habitent sur plusieurs points de la capitale, et la terreur règne dans Constantinople et ses faubourgs.

Loin de s'améliorer, l'état des choses s'aggrave, et je ne vois dans la nécessité d'y appeler l'attention sérieuse de mon Gouvernement.

L'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre,
(Signé) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 37.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October 7.*)

(No. 651.) *Therapia, October 3*, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, respecting the departure for Constantinople of large contingents of recruits raised in the Vilayet of Angora.

I also inclose copy of a Memorandum by Colonel Chermside on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, September 12*, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Military Attaché of Her Majesty's Embassy, that yesterday and to-day 240 recruits in all, from this locality, left Angora for Constantinople.

Other recruits to the number of 250 have arrived here from Yuzgat, and these also are expected to start shortly for the capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, September 24*, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Excellency of the 12th instant, reporting the passage of conscripts, enrolled in this locality, to Constantinople, I now have the honour to report, for the further information of the Military Attaché of Her Majesty's Embassy, that within the last ten days upwards of 1,200 other recruits, levied chiefly from the Sandjaks of Yuzgat and Caesarea, have passed through this town on their way to the capital.

It is rumoured that between 6,000 and 7,000 recruits in all are to be levied this year from the Angora Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 37.

Memorandum by Colonel Chermside.

THE recruits of the class of the Turkish year 1311 are now joining the colours all over the Empire.

The men of each year's class fit for military service, and not entitled to exemption on grounds of being support of family, religious studies, &c., are divided into two categories:—

1. "Tertib Ewwel," who join the colours for four years' service.

2. "Tertib Sani," who remain in their homes on permanent furlough but who are liable at any time during four years to be called to the colours to reinforce the class of their contemporaries.

Of late years the annual contingent of "Tertib Ewwel" has normally amounted to 45,000, but a larger contingent has been required every fourth year. During the war 1877–78, one class was taken a-year in anticipation, and was fused with the preceding class. On the discharge of this augmented contingent a specially large draft was required to fill the gap in the "cadres," and so on every fourth year.

The recommendation to equally distribute the excess over 45,000 men annually required over the four classes has never been carried out.

Theoretically, the normal colour service in peace time is three years, but practically for the past eighteen years it has been four.

It was hoped by the General Staff that this year the three years' service might be introduced.

I have not, however, heard of the issue of an Iradé approving this.

The "Tertib Ewwel" contingent of this year is unusually high — 75,000 or 76,000.

This is partly due to the first, or both of above causes, but also to the fact of a decision to maintain the battalions in parts of European Turkey at an effective of 800 instead of that of 500, which has been the prescribed strength of late years for the battalions of 2nd and 3rd Ordus in Roumelia and West Balkan Peninsula respectively.

The raising of the effectives of the battalions of 3rd Ordu in Macedonia,

and some of those in 2nd Ordu to 800 was reported some time since, and the additional numbers of the present levy of conscripts enable this strength to be maintained.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE, *Colonel.*

Therapia, September 30, 1895.

No. 38.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 461.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 7, 1895, 11:55 P.M.*

THE Sultan sent Zekki Pasha, Grand Master of Artillery, to me this evening, to say that the proximity of the English fleet encouraged the Armenian Revolutionary Committee in their action, and to beg me to give orders for its removal to some more distant port, *e.g.*, Salonica. Order, he said, could not be restored as long as the fleet remained at Lemnos. The Armenian Committee hoped by provoking the Turkish population to bloodshed to force Her Majesty's Government to bring the fleet to Constantinople, and demand autonomy for the Armenians.

I replied that it was not in my power to issue orders respecting movements of the fleet. The present disturbance of public order was due to the excesses committed by the Turkish population with the connivance of the police, even though the trouble originated with the action of the Armenians, and it was for the Turkish Government to restore order and confidence. If the answer returned by the Porte to the note of the Ambassadors, asking what measures had been taken to calm the agitation prevailing among Mussulmans and Armenians, proved satisfactory, I would inform Her Majesty's Government of its purport, at the same time reporting His Imperial Majesty's desire that the fleet might be moved from Lemnos.

On Zekki Pasha asking whether I would support this request, I replied that the decision lay entirely with Her Majesty's Government, but that it could hardly be expected in the present critical state of affairs in the capital that they would consent to move the fleet.

During our conversation, Zekki Pasha repeatedly insisted on the fact that the first shot had been fired by the Armenians, and I replied that the wholesale massacres and arrests of innocent Armenians which had taken place could not be justified by the criminal act of a few revolutionists.

He admitted that regrettable excesses had occurred, but asserted that their continuance was now rendered impossible owing to the military patrols which had been established.

No. 39.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 464.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 8, 1895, 2:40 P.M.*

I THINK that all the essential points in the proposals of the 11th May are dealt with in the recommendations of the three Ambassadors reported in my immediately preceding telegram.* It seems hopeless in the present state of the finances to demand that local administration should be made a first charge on the revenue of the vilayets, and we have therefore dropped that point.

No. 40.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 465.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 8, 1895, 6:10 P.M.*

ABOUT 2,000 Armenians have taken refuge in the Patriarchate and the Armenian churches in Constantinople. The police have surrounded the buildings, and allow no food to be taken in.

* See despatch No. 669 of October 10, 1895; *infra*, No. 95.

In consequence of an appeal made on behalf of the refugees, the three Ambassadors have offered to intervene and endeavour to settle the difficulty, and have requested the Porte to give orders in the meantime for the suspension of the blockade.

No. 41.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 466.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 8, 1895, 6:50 P.M.*

SIR M. DURAND informs me by telegraph that Hassib, who was till recently Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran, is to join Shakir Pasha's mission. Sir Mortimer says he hates Armenians, but is a pleasant colleague and intelligent.

No. 42.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 467.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 8, 1895, 11:20 P.M.*

TREBIZOND has been the scene of disturbances to-day, and a massacre of Armenians has taken place there.

No. 43.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 468.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 8, 1895, 11:55 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday's date No. 461, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I received a further visit from Zekki Pasha this evening. He was the bearer of a request from the Sultan that I would use my influence to put an end to the disturbances caused, according to His Imperial Majesty, by the violence of the Armenians. I informed Zekki Pasha of the telegram which the six Embassies had this afternoon addressed to the Porte, proposing to use their good offices in regard to those who had taken refuge in the churches, and I said that if we received solemn assurances that no one would molest the refugees, we would advise them to give up their arms and return to their homes.

Zekki Pasha then went on to say that the Sultan had determined to offer his devoted friendship to England and to follow her advice, and repeated His Majesty's request that the fleet might be moved from Lemnos, adding that, under these circumstances, he could not doubt that Her Majesty's Government would immediately comply with His Majesty's request.

I replied that this was not the first time that the Sultan had given similar assurances which had not been fulfilled. If, however, His Majesty really wished to follow

England's advice, he would find Her Majesty's Government quite ready to counsel him for the benefit of the Ottoman Empire. He must, however, prove the sincerity of his intentions not merely by words, but by deeds.

I did not think that for the present any change in the position of the fleet would be made, but when the reforms demanded by the Powers had been promulgated and satisfactory steps taken for restoring order, I felt sure that Her Majesty's Government would make no difficulty in meeting His Majesty's wishes on this point.

Zekki Pasha said that the Sultan would receive me if I would attend the Selamlik on Friday.

The proximity of the fleet is evidently disturbing His Majesty very much, and there are grounds for hoping that, if I and my colleagues are at once authorized to press for the acceptance of the reforms as laid down in my telegram No. 463 of the 8th instant, we might, without much delay, succeed in carrying them through.

No. 44.

The Marquess of Salisbury to the Marquess of Dufferin.

(No. 483.) *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1895.

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador informed Mr. Bertie, on the 6th instant, that your Lordship had made a communication to M. Hanotaux relative to Armenian reforms in accordance with the instructions contained in my telegram No. 117 of the 2nd instant.

M. Hanotaux had informed Baron de Courcel that, in compliance with my suggestion, he had instructed M. Cambon, by telegraph, to concert with the British and Russian Ambassadors at Constantinople in regard to the final proposals to be presented to the Porte, it being understood that the points included in the scheme presented by the Ambassadors on the 11th May last should be the subject of their examination, and that they should refer the results of their deliberations to their respective Governments.

M. Hanotaux was anxious to know whether my suggestion had been communicated in writing to the Russian Government, as it had been by you to the French Government. He was very desirous of avoiding any uncertainty which might delay the conclusion of the negotiations with the Porte, and Prince Lobanoff, M. Hanotaux said, appeared to share his views on this point.

Mr. Bertie informed Baron de Courcel that the instructions to Sir F. Lascelles were telegraphed to St. Petersburgh, and that his Excellency had replied by telegraph on the 4th instant that M. Chichkine had informed him that, in consequence of a telegram from Prince Lobanoff, instructions in the sense requested by me had been sent to M. de Nélidoff.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 45.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 469.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 9, 1895, 10·15 A.M.

IN reply to the joint note presented by the Embassies on the 6th instant, as reported in my telegram No. 460 of that day's date, the Sublime Porte has addressed a note to us stating the measures that have been adopted to prevent any fresh disturbances and to assure the security of the Christians and foreign colonies.

These measures are as follows:—

Patrols of soldiers and police circulate night and day in the streets for the maintenance of order.

Warnings have been issued and the public has been recommended, through the medium of the newspapers, to keep the peace. The Sheikh-ul-Islam has exhorted the Softas in the same sense.

No. 46.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 470.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 9, 1895, 10·15 A.M.

IN reply to the telegram from the Embassies proposing our good offices in the matter of the refugees in the churches, as reported in my telegram No. 463 of yesterday, the Porte has telegraphed thanking us for our offer, but denying that the police have prevented food being brought into the churches.

They are willing to confer with the Ambassadors as to the best means of dealing with the difficulty.

No. 47.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 471.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 9, 1895, 11 A.M.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting further on the disturbances referred to in my telegram No. 467 of the 8th October. The telegram is dated 5 A.M. to-day:—

"Looting and massacre of Armenians began at 10·30 and lasted until sunset; many lives were saved [*sic*]. Order has been maintained during night, but fears are entertained and troops are insufficient.

"No British subjects or American citizens have been hurt."

No. 48.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 472.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 9, 1895, 2·25 P.M.

MY immediately preceding telegram.

M. de Nélidoff has telegraphed to his Government, begging that a Russian man-of-war may be sent to Trebizond.

No. 49.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 473.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 9, 1895, 7·10 P.M.

MY telegram No. 470 of yesterday.

The foreign Minister met the Ambassadors at the French Embassy this afternoon to give us the answer of the Sublime Porte to the offer of our good services in the matter of the refugees in the churches.

Said Pasha, speaking in the name of the Ottoman Government, gave us his word that the refugees would be allowed to leave the churches on condition of their giving up any arms they might possess, and that they would be neither arrested nor molested, but might return freely to their homes.

The Dragomans of the Embassies will to-morrow visit the different Armenian churches and inform the refugees of the assurances given by the Imperial Government and encourage them to go home. Every precaution will be taken to prevent disturbances, and the Dragomans will act in communication with the Minister of Police.

No. 50.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 474.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 9, 1895, 7·20 P.M.

M. CAMBON informs me that the French Government have sent him a telegram approving the recommendations of the three Ambassadors as to the points to be insisted on in the proposals of the 11th May (*vide* my telegram No. 463 of the 8th October).

He has also heard that the recommendations meet with Prince Lobanoff's approval.

No. 51.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 475.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 9, 1895, 7·15 P.M.*

JEDDAH outrage.

My telegram No. 434 of the 26th September.

The foreign Minister has addressed a note to me, in which his Excellency states that the Sublime Porte have again sent peremptory orders to the authorities in the Hedjaz, instructing them to immediately take the necessary steps for the capture of the authors of the outrage, either dead or alive.

No. 52.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, October 9, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 45 and 46, and to inform you that the reports of the circumstances at Trebizond, taken in conjunction with the grave situation of affairs at Constantinople, have caused Count Goluchowski the greatest anxiety.

His Excellency is of opinion that the Ambassadors of the Powers represented at Constantinople should jointly bring the strongest pressure to bear upon the Porte with a view to protecting all Christians, and should hold the Turkish Government responsible for whatever happens. He has telegraphed in this sense to the Austrian Representatives at the capitals of all the Great Powers, and has inquired what are the views held on the situation.

Count Goluchowski desired me to give your Lordship to understand that he considers instant action to be necessary, as it is impossible to exaggerate the gravity of the whole question.

No. 53.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, October 9, 1895.*

WITH regard to the Armenian question, I have been begged by Count Goluchowski to inform your Lordship that he is unable to obtain exact information as to how matters stand between Turkey and the three Powers.

Hitherto the Government of this country has abstained from active interference, but a catastrophe now appears, in his Excellency's opinion, to be imminent, owing to the temporizing conduct of the Sultan. It is the desire of Austria to work with England, and, consequently, it is essential that he should know what are your Lordship's precise views, and that he should be exactly informed on what you intend to insist. Throughout our conversation the tenour of his Excellency's language showed that he considered the matter to be one of extreme urgency.

No. 54.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to the Marquess of Dufferin.**

(No. 124.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 9, 1895.*

YOUR Excellency will have learnt from the telegrams from Sir P. Currie which have been repeated to you that he and the Ambassadors of France and Russia at Constantinople have arrived at an agreement as to the course to be pursued in regard

* Also to Sir F. Lascelles (No. 189).

to Armenian reforms which they are recommending for the approval of their Government.

These proposals appear to Her Majesty's Government to be quite satisfactory, and should, in their opinion, be approved. You should urge earnestly on the Minister for Foreign Affairs that, if strong and united pressure is exerted by the three Ambassadors, the Sultan may very probably be induced to give way in the critical circumstances in which His Imperial Majesty is now placed, but that such an opportunity, if allowed to pass now, will not recur.

The position of the three Powers will be very difficult, and very serious questions will come up for decision if the Sultan is permitted to commence another campaign of procrastination.

No. 55.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 476.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 10, 1895, 11 A.M.*

MR. CUMBERBATCH telegraphs from Erzeroum that the Vali, having received news of the recent disturbances at Constantinople, and of the attempt on the life of Bahri Pasha at Trebizond, and fearing the unusual state of ill-feeling among both Christians and Mahommedans, has taken precautionary measures to prevent any outbreak.

During the last few days two supposed informers have been assassinated at Erzeroum and one at Erzingan, the murders being attributed to revolutionary agents.

No. 56.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 477.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 10, 1895, 12·10 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at the Dardanelles has reported by telegraph, under date of the 9th October, 5 P.M., that great activity prevails in all the forts there; that several hundreds of soldiers have arrived from Constantinople; that extra torpedoes have been laid down on both sides of the Straits; and that he hears that the cannons are loaded, and pointed in their different positions down the Straits.

No. 57.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury—(Received October 10.)

(No. 478.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 10, 1895, 12·10 P.M.*

MR. HAMPSON telegraphed yesterday from Mush that there is considerable fear of disorder there, but that the town is being well patrolled. He adds that the Mutessarif of Bajazid has exchanged with the Mutessarif of Mush.

No. 58.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 479.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 10, 1895, 12·10 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Trebizond telegraphed at 6 P.M. last night that the day had passed in false alarms, but that no disturbances had taken place.

No. 59.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 480.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 10, 1895, 3 P.M.*

THE Military Attaché believes that the following communication which has been addressed to this Embassy is correct:—

"The Turkish Government have at present seventy-five to eighty torpedoes of a new design and ninety pieces of iron chain ready to be sent to the Dardanelles, with four divers to lay them. A Pasha who went to the Dardanelles to examine the torpedoes of last year has performed his task, and is now back in Constantinople."

No. 60.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 481.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 10, 1895, 8 P.M.*

THE Russian Consul at Trebizond has telegraphed to his Embassy, stating that the number of Armenians killed amounts to 200. Attacks are said to have been made by the Lazes on Christian villages. Reinforcements have arrived at Trebizond, bringing up the number of troops there to about 500.

At the earnest request of the Vali, who said that the appearance of a Russian ship of war would lead to a renewal of the massacre, the Russian Consul has telegraphed begging that no ship may be sent.

No. 61.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 482.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 10, 1895, 8 P.M.*

MY telegram No. 473 of the 9th October.

The Dragomans of the three Embassies have just telegraphed from town that 400 refugees have left the Armenian church at Pera to-day, and the rest promise to follow to-morrow, while all have left the cathedral at Koum Kapon.

No. 62.

The Marquess of Dufferin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, October 10, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 124 of the 9th instant, that French Ambassador at Constantinople has already been informed by M. Hanotaux, by telegraph, that he approves of all the nine points referred to in Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 463 of the 8th instant respecting the proposed Armenian reforms.

His Excellency briefly discussed the matter with Prince Lobanoff yesterday evening at a reception at the Elysée, and he thinks that the latter also concurs.

No. 63.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 10, 1895.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 71 of yesterday, conveying a message from Count Goluchowski to the effect that, in view of the present crisis at Constantinople, Austria wishes to act in accord with England, and that it is therefore essential that he should know exactly the present situation between the three Powers and the Porte with regard to Armenian reforms, and the precise views of Her Majesty's Government.

The information furnished to your Excellency to-day, in my telegrams Nos. 50 to 53 inclusive, together with other correspondence already sent to you, will enable you to explain to Count Goluchowski the present state of the negotiations on the subject of the reforms.

Pray thank his Excellency in my name for his offer of assistance, and tell him that I shall be very glad if instructions can be sent to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople to consult with Her Majesty's Ambassador as to the way in which the support of the Austrian Government can be most effectively given.

No. 64.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 179.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 10, 1895.*

IN my immediately preceding telegram I repeated to you a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, reporting a communication from the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the gravity of the present situation in Turkey, and his Excellency's opinion that not a moment should be lost in bringing collective pressure to bear on the Porte to insure the protection of all Christians.

I should be glad to learn your Excellency's views on this communication from Count Goluchowski.

No. 65.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 180.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 10, 1895.*

I HAVE received your telegrams Nos. 463, 466, and 474 of the 8th and 9th instant respectively, with reference to the further points in the scheme of Armenian reforms which the Ambassadors of Great Britain, France, and Russia have submitted to their respective Governments, and to which they consider it is essential to obtain the consent of the Porte.

As soon as the necessary instructions have reached the Russian Ambassador enabling him to join in the necessary representations to the Porte, your Excellency is, of course, authorized to proceed immediately on the lines recommended by you in concert with your French and Russian colleagues.

You will see from Sir E. Monson's telegram, repeated to you in my telegram No. 178 of to-day, that the Austrian Government take a very serious view of the present situation, and have expressed a wish to give their support to our proposals for reforms in Armenia. I have suggested to Count Goluchowski that the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople should confer with you as to the mode in which Austria can most effectively support us in our present negotiations.

No. 66.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 308.)

Foreign Office, October 10, 1895.

Sir,

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires called at the Foreign Office on the 5th instant and handed to Sir Percy Anderson a *note verbale*, of which I transmit a copy herewith,* stating that the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople had been authorized to join his British and French colleagues in addressing a collective note to the Porte on the subject of Armenian reforms.

Sir Percy Anderson informed M. Kroupensky that Sir P. Currie had reported that the Russian and French Ambassadors had received their instructions, and that at his suggestion they had telegraphed to their Governments to inquire whether they would be given latitude to concert as to further points beyond those contemplated in the instructions sent to them, one of which would be the publication of the reforms by Imperial Decree.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 67.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 308 A.)

Foreign Office, October 10, 1895.

Sir,

THE Russian Ambassador called at the Foreign Office to-day and communicated to Sir T. Sanderson a telegram from his Government relative to the proposal made by the British, French, and Russian Ambassadors to address a fresh note to the Porte demanding certain further concessions in regard to the reforms to be introduced in the Armenian provinces.

The Russian Government suggest that it might be more prudent, in view of the disturbed state of things at Constantinople, that the three Ambassadors should only call upon the Porte to adhere in principle to their proposals, leaving the details to be discussed when the excitement had calmed down.

I have informed M. de Staal that I consider it very desirable to leave it, as far as possible, to the discretion of the Ambassadors to decide as to the course of procedure, since, being on the spot, they are the best judges of what the situation renders desirable. The greater the latitude given to them the better will be the chance of bringing the matter to a successful termination.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 68.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 652. Confidential.)

Therapia, October 6, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Report by Mr. Shipley, Dragoman of this Embassy, containing an account of an interview which he had, by my instructions, with the Armenian Patriarch on the 4th October.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

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* No. 25.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Report by Mr. Shipley.

(Confidential.)

IN accordance with the instructions of his Excellency the Ambassador, I called yesterday, accompanied by a cavass of the Embassy, on the Armenian Patriarch, Mgr. Ismirlian, at the latter's residence at Koum Kapou.

After the usual inquiries as to the health of his Beatitude, I informed the latter that I had been instructed by his Excellency to assure his Beatitude that his Excellency took the deepest interest in the present state of the Armenians; that his Excellency would do what lay in his power to put a stop to the arrest and murder of innocent people; that he would make the strongest representations on the subject to the Grand Vizier, whom he was visiting that day; and that his Excellency sympathized very fully with the trouble and difficulty in which his Beatitude was placed.

Finally, that his Excellency was aware of and had reported to Her Majesty's Government the efforts made by his Beatitude to restrain violence, and that his Excellency, bearing in mind the suffering which retaliation might inflict on innocent persons, as well as the fact that violence would alienate the sympathies of Europe, hoped that his Beatitude would not fail to continue these efforts.

I also made his Beatitude acquainted with the substance of the communication to the Sublime Porte by the Embassies under date of the 2nd October, reading out to his Beatitude the concluding paragraph.

His Beatitude, in reply, begged me to convey to his Excellency his deepest thanks for the sympathy shown by his Excellency not only to himself but to the Armenian cause, and further expressed the most earnest hope that his Excellency would find a radical remedy for the existing state of things. His Beatitude then went on to say that as the recent events were due to the utterly desperate and wretched condition into which the Armenians had fallen, there could be no hope that the present state of things would cease in any vilayet if the reforms were not under the direct control and guarantee (his Beatitude laying great emphasis on the latter word) of either the six European Powers collectively or any one of them.

As regards the necessity of restraining further violence, on which I told his Beatitude that your Excellency laid particular stress, the Patriarch said he would do what he could, but stated, at the same time, that it was out of his power to guarantee anything. The Armenian communities were coming to him and saying, "You see our desperate condition; we know that during nine months you have done your best, but what is going to be done?"

The Armenians were beside themselves, arrested as they were, thrown into prison, and shut up through fear in their churches.

His Beatitude, in reply to a question of mine as to whether any more demonstrations were likely to take place, while admitting that things were now a little quieter, stated that he would offer no guarantee that they would remain so in view of the desperation of the Armenians to which his Beatitude repeatedly referred.

I may mention that his Beatitude, though disposed to take an extremely despondent view of the situation, was evidently more cheerful at the end of the interview, and was, I think, most grateful to his Excellency for the expression of sympathy I had been instructed to convey.

His Beatitude furnished to me at the above interview the following particulars respecting recent events.

Up to the present eighty-one bodies had been given up to the Patriarchate by the Turkish authorities, of which two had had their throats cut. More bodies were being sent in that day, the exact number of which his Beatitude could not give until evening. The medical reports concerning these and other cases would in due course be furnished to the various Embassies.

In the Kussim Pasha affair the Turkish authorities had not delivered up any bodies, but he estimated the number of victims at from thirty to forty.

At Kara Geumrih, near the mosque of Mehmed Fatih, twenty-five Armenians had been killed, as well as a young girl and two women, one of the latter being pregnant.

As regards the latter case, the facts, according to his Beatitude, given on the authority of the chief Armenian medical attendant, Dr. Tirakian by name, were that the abdomen was cut open. The woman was taken to the hospital in question, where the doctor succeeded in extracting the infant, the woman then expiring.

Of 150 men known to be at Tchoukour Tchesmé Han, no traces had been found since

4·30 P.M. on Tuesday. Of these twelve had been killed by the official report, and their bodies handed over; none of these bodies, however, belonged to the men of Palu, of whom it was known that a certain number were among the 150 referred to, or they would have been known by their dress.

As regarded the Armenians in the churches, there were, his Beatitude stated, no cordons, military or otherwise, placed round them to prevent the Armenians from coming out. The latter, however, who took refuge there, principally at night, were afraid to come out owing to their fear of being either arrested or assassinated.

I may mention, in conclusion, that I visited the church at Kouin Kapou, and found a great number of Armenians inside. They seemed, however, to be well looked after, and not wanting for food.

I omitted to state, with regard to the Tchoukour Tchesmé Han affair, that his Beatitude informed me that an eye-witness, whose name he refrained from giving, stated that he had seen eight chariots with dead bodies.

I myself saw at the Patriarchate a man, Calust by name, who bore evident traces of ill-usage.

No. 69.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 653.) *Therapia, October* 6, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which has been addressed by the Armenian Patriarch to the Representatives of the Great Powers appealing for their assistance in the re-establishment of order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 69.

The Armenian Patriarch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidentielle.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Patriarcat Arménien, Constantinople, le 4 Octobre*, 1895.

DEPUIS Lundi dernier, 17 (29) Septembre, la population Arménienne de la capitale est en proie à la panique et se trouve précisément dans l'état auquel sont condamnés, depuis longtemps, ses compatriotes des provinces. Ce jour, un groupe de nos nationaux s'est réuni pour aller soumettre une pétition à la Sublime Porte et implorer le terme de leurs souffrances, de même que dans la matinée, l'office terminé, un autre groupe, comprenant des femmes originaires des provinces, s'était présenté à nous et était parti sur nos promesses encourgeantes.

Cependant, du côté de la Sublime Porte, selon nos informations, la démarche des pétitionnaires est empêchée par la force des armes, et là ont lieu des scènes sanglantes; de nombreux Arméniens sont cruellement tués, d'autres sont blessés, arrêtés et vont emplir les prisons.

Devant ces faits, devant les assassinats survenus çà et là et les mouvements menaçants d'individus à l'apparence de Softas, un certain nombre d'Arméniens viennent se réfugier dans la cathédrale.

Les jours et les nuits suivants, surtout à la faveur des ténèbres et de la solitude, des massacres ont lieu. On égorge nuitamment des ouvriers Arméniens dans un han de Tchoukour-Tchesmé (Stamboul), un groupe de provinciaux Arméniens dans un han à Kassim-Pacha; dans maints quartiers et villages, à Galata, à Guédik-Pacha, à Hasskeui, à Makrikeui, à Cunkapan, à Caragheumruk, à Tophané, à Atpazar des innocents sont assassinés, entre autres notre Yassakdji Avediss, à 8 heures du soir, à son retour de Yeni-Kapou au Patriarcat, et tout près du corps de garde.

La populace saisit le texte de chercher des armes comme un mot d'ordre, pour envahir les demeures et en égorger les habitants sans défense, sous les yeux indifférents de la police.

Des personnes en grand nombre ont également disparu.

Il n'a pas encore été possible de préciser le nombre des personnes tuées, blessées, arrêtées et disparues; il paraît considérable, bien que jusqu'à ce matin seize cadavres seulement ont été livrés pour être enterrés.

On demande sécurité de tous côtés; les écoles, les maisons de commerce, et les boutiques restent closes et la faim menace les familles pauvres. La terreur va se généralisant, et de même que la population de Stamboul s'était réfugiée dans la Cathédrale, du côté de Péra et de Galata, une population, parmi laquelle des femmes et des enfants, poussée par la peur, s'en va se réfugier dans les églises de ces localités, comme dans des asiles inviolables.

Le Gouvernement nous demande avec instance de disperser cette population, mais ni les exhortations, ni les promesses ne lui inspirent assez de confiance pour la déterminer de sortir, tant qu'elle continue à apprendre que de nouveaux crimes se commettent jour et nuit et que des prisonniers succombent aux mauvais traitements. Dans ces conditions comment nous serait-il possible de lui fermer les portes de nos églises, et de la priver de l'unique asile peut-être qui lui reste.

En présence de cette situation désespérée, au nom de l'humanité, au nom de la Chrétienté et de la civilisation Européenne, nous recourons à votre Excellence et vous implorons à l'effet de prendre en sérieuse considération le présent état des choses et de déterminer par l'intervention de votre haute autorité, l'adoption des mesures nécessaires pour rétablir d'une façon réelle l'ordre et la sécurité, calmer toute cette population, évacuer les églises, et, grâce à une enquête impartiale, révéler les crimes commis, découvrir les personnes disparues, relâcher les prisonniers, infliger des punitions exemplaires à tous les auteurs, complices et agents des massacres des Chrétiens.

En confiant votre Excellence à la garde du Très-Haut et invitant sur elle les bénédictions Divines, j'ai, &c.

Le Patriarche des Arméniens de Turquie,
(Signé) MADTÉOS.

No. 70.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 654.) *Therapia, October* 6, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a communication which I have received from the Armenian Patriarch, inclosing a medical report on the bodies of Armenians handed over to the Armenian hospital at Yédi-Koulé by the Prefecture of Police.

The Italian Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to me a further report on the same subject by an Italian doctor attached to the hospital, of which I have also the honour to inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

The Armenian Patriarch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidentielle.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Patriarcat Arménien, Constantinople, le 5 Octobre*, 1895.

SELON des informations parvenues au Patriarcat jusqu'à hier matin, seize cadavres d'Arméniens avaient été envoyés par la Préfecture de Police au cimetière Arménien de Yédi-Koulé pour être ensevelis. La cérémonie religieuse de l'enterrement des victimes ayant lieu dans la chapelle de l'hôpital de Yédi-Koulé, nous avons été en mesure d'apprendre de la Direction même de l'hôpital que jusqu'à hier quatre-vingts cadavres ont été livrés par la Préfecture de Police et enterrés après examen médical.

Les rapports médicaux nous ont été communiqués et considérant que la teneur de ces documents est digne d'attention, nous avons l'honneur de vous en remettre ci-joint les

copies;* dont il ressort de quelles atrocités de nombreux Arméniens ont succombés, voire après leur arrestation, et dans les prisons même.

En confiant votre Excellence à la garde du Très-Haut, nous la prions d'agréer, &c.

Le Patriarche des Arméniens de Turquie,
(Signé) MADTÉOS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

Report by Italian Doctor.

HIER, Jeudi, 3 Octobre, on a transporté du Ministère de la Police à l'hôpital Arménien de Yédi-Koulé quatre-vingts cadavres, parmi lesquelles celui d'une femme. Les cadavres étaient entassés de cinq à six, dans des chariots de désinfection, et dans des corbillards ordinaires.

Excepté quelques-uns de ces cadavres, les autres se trouvaient déjà en état de décomposition, ce qui prouve que c'étaient ceux du premier jour du conflit, Lundi, 30 Septembre, et qui sont restés jusque hier à la police. Les morts sont tous des ouvriers Arméniens.

Les constatations du décès ont été faites par les médecins Zartar et Mougieri, attachés à l'hôpital de Yédi-Koulé, en présence de Simon Bey Christoforides, médecin de la police, et de Nouri Bey, Commissaire de Police.

Presque tous les cadavres présentent des blessures et des lésions très graves à la tête, produites par des armes contondantes et tranchantes.

Seulement dix d'entre eux présentent des blessures produites par des armes à feu. Les blessures produites par des armes tranchantes sont innombrables, surtout dans le dos et dans le périnée; une des victimes, par exemple, est criblée par trente-six blessures.

Les médecins supposent que les malheureux, tombés à cause des coups de "cama" (couteaux à deux tranchants) et de "buteiak" (couteau très long et aiguisé). Un des cadavres manque de la moitié du thorax, qui semble avoir été enlevé par un coup de hache. Les médecins sont aussi d'avis que plusieurs des blessés n'ont pas succombé tout de suite aux blessures, mais qu'ils sont morts quelque temps après avoir été transportés à la police. Les médecins croient aussi que les agresseurs se sont acharnés contre les victimes en les assommant à coups d'arme blanche, et aussi à coups de canne et de pierre. La femme qui était en état de grossesse avancée avait le ventre ouvert au moyen d'arme tranchante. Cette malheureuse habitait Kassim-Pacha; il paraît que dans la maison où elle logeait on a aussi tué son père, son mari, et sa sœur.

Après la constatation des médecins, les cadavres ont été ensevelis dans le cimetière Arménien de Yédi-Koulé. Les agents de police ont annoncé que d'autres cadavres seraient envoyés à l'hôpital.

Ambassade d'Italie, Constantinople,
le 4 Octobre, 1895.

No. 71.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 655.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 6*, 1895.

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 443 and 445 of the 2nd October, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Muriniteh giving an account of the interview at which the Dragomans of the Great Powers made joint representations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting the recent disturbances in Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

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* Not printed.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Memorandum by Mr. Muriniteh.

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions I waited last Wednesday with my Austrian, French, Italian, and German colleagues upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and took part in the joint representation made in consequence of the excesses committed by zaptiehs, and more especially by private Mussulmans during and after the affray of last Monday in Stamboul when the Armenians made their so-called peaceful demonstration.

Turkhan Pasha stated, in reply, that he did not know whether excesses, such as those complained of, had actually been committed. But his Excellency declared that the Turkish Government had taken, and were still taking, every possible measure to entirely restore order and tranquillity in the capital, and that he could guarantee that public security was perfectly assured.

In answer, I stated that I regretted to see that his Excellency did not understand the great importance of the joint representation made by the five Embassies, nor the gravity of the situation, which calls for immediate and more efficacious measures.

My Italian colleague mentioned to Turkhan Pasha the wholesale massacre of Armenians at Kassim-Pasha, which his Excellency professed not to have heard of.

The French Dragoman simply referred to the conversation he had had in the morning with the foreign Minister, and M. Testa, the German Dragoman, stated that the eye-witnesses being persons of whose credibility no doubt could be entertained, the facts complained of were in the opinion of the Embassies fully established.

Turkhan Pasha thereupon repeated his former statements, which, as your Excellency will perceive, were not such as a Minister for Foreign Affairs should have made in answer to so strong a representation at so critical a moment.

Therapia, October 5, 1895.

No. 72.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 656.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 7*, 1895.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 460 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the collective note of the six Embassies presented to the Porte on the 6th October respecting the present state of insecurity in Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Collective Note.

EN présence des événements dont la ville de Constantinople a été le théâtre depuis cinq jours, les Représentants des Grandes Puissances ont dû se préoccuper des conséquences qui pourraient résulter de la durée de cet état de trouble.

Il existe au sein de la population Arménienne de la capitale une excitation et une inquiétude qui ne paraissent pas se calmer. Quelle que soit la cause à laquelle on puisse les attribuer il semble qu'au lieu de diminuer elles ne fissent qu'augmenter chaque jour. Aussi d'après le bruit public est-il à craindre qu'on n'assiste à de nouveaux incidents.

En outre l'inquiétude causée par les mesures prises contre les Arméniens qui n'étaient pas mêlés au mouvement, les arrestations en masse, les sévices dont plusieurs ont été l'objet, ont déterminé nombre d'entre eux à se réfugier dans les églises dont ils ne veulent pas sortir s'ils n'obtiennent des garanties sérieuses pour leur liberté et leur vie. Il est évident que la prolongation d'un pareil état de choses ne peut qu'augmenter l'agitation des esprits et constitue une cause permanente de conflits.

Un fait grave surtout est à noter; c'est qu'à la suite de la dispersion de la manifestation de Lundi dernier un grand nombre d'individus n'appartenant ni à la police ni à

l'armée, des Softas, des Kurdes établis à Constantinople, de simples particuliers sans mandat, se sont armés, ont poursuivi les Arméniens et se sont livrés même contre des Chrétiens appartenant aux autres communautés à des agressions de tout genre. On signale de leur part de nombreuses attaques aux propriétés et des faits de pillage et de meurtre. L'autorité loin de mettre un terme à leurs excès a tout fait de les avoir encouragés. Quelques Ambassades ont pu enregistrer des sévices subis par plusieurs de leurs nationaux; toutes ont eu connaissance des arrestations arbitraires et des actes de brutalité commis par des agents de police et des zaptiés.

Quel que répréhensible que puissent être les actes accomplis par les manifestants, de pareils excès ne sauraient être excusés.

En outre la police elle-même a gravement méconnu les devoirs d'équité et de modération qui s'imposent aux représentants de la force publique. Tous les témoignages concordent à démontrer qu'elle a pratiqué les arrestations sans mesure, sans contrôle, et sans aucune vérification de l'identité des personnes. Un grand nombre de passants inoffensifs ont été appréhendés et jetés en prison sous le simple prétexte qu'ils étaient ou paraissaient Arméniens. La police s'est livrée sur les détenus à des excès de tout genre. Partout ils ont été victimes des plus mauvais traitements, de coups et de blessures, et plus d'une fois les agents ont tué des prisonniers sans défense.

La Sublime Porte conviendra que tous ces faits sont de nature à causer la plus grande émotion parmi les colonies Européennes établies à Constantinople.

Ils autorisent à penser que si cette situation se prolongeait la sécurité publique serait gravement et irrémédiablement compromise et que l'agitation en s'étendant pourrait gagner les provinces de l'Empire.

Les Représentants des Puissances se voient dans l'obligation de demander à la Sublime Porte quelles mesures elle a prise pour calmer l'inquiétude et l'agitation qui se sont emparées des populations Musulmane et Arménienne, pour prévoir ainsi le retour des lamentables incidents de ces jours derniers et mettre les Chrétiens et les colonies étrangères à l'abri d'éventualités périlleuses.

Ils ont aussi le désir de prêter leur concours au Gouvernement Ottoman afin de rétablir de part et d'autre la tranquillité dans les esprits. Ils pensent que des enquêtes immédiates sur les événements dont Constantinople vient d'être le théâtre, sur l'état des prisons, sur la conduite des agents de police et des gendarmes, et que la mise en liberté des nombreux prisonniers contre lesquels ne s'élève aucune charge sérieuse seraient les meilleurs moyens de calmer l'agitation actuelle.

Ils sont prêts à assister et à seconder le Gouvernement Impérial dans ses enquêtes et à lui transmettre toutes les informations qu'ils ont pu recueillir. Ils ne doutent pas que la Sublime Porte ne prenne enfin les mesures nécessaires pour mettre un terme à un état de choses dont la conscience Européenne ne manquerait pas de s'indigner s'il devenait évident que l'inaction de l'autorité encourage de regrettables passions.

Les Représentants des Puissances estiment qu'il est urgent d'arriver aux moyens d'assurer à la population Chrétienne de la capitale une sécurité que les faits cités plus haut et tant d'autres ont si gravement compromise depuis quelques jours. Ils ont la ferme confiance que le Gouvernement Impérial soucieux de démontrer que son esprit de justice et son autorité peuvent exercer une action efficace dans des circonstances aussi graves les mettra promptement en mesure de rassurer leurs Gouvernements respectifs au sujet d'événements qui préoccupent à juste titre l'opinion publique et qui ne manqueront pas de soulever en Europe la plus vive émotion.

Le 6 Octobre, 1895.

No. 73.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October 11.*)

(No. 657.)

Therapia, October 7, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a *note verbale* which I have received from the Sublime Porte, inclosing a further communication on the subject of the Reform proposals, at the end of which are appended the six additional points which the Ottoman Government are ready to concede.

This communication is identical with the "Résumé du Contre-Projet du Gouvernement Impérial" of the 19th August (see my despatch No. 549 of the 21st August), with the exception of Articles 12 and 21 on the subject of the election

of Mudirs, and the selection of police and gendarmerie officers respectively, which are modified in accordance with the further concessions contained in the six points.

Articles 30 to 39, on the subject of judicial organization, repeat the criticism on the proposals of the Reform scheme, already made in the Porte's communication of the 2nd August (see my despatch No. 505 of the 3rd August), and result in maintaining the existing system, as stated in the "Contre-Projet" of the 19th August.

With regard to the additional six points, I would point out to your Lordship that No. 4 can hardly be considered a concession, seeing that already in the "Contre-Projet" it is stated that more care and attention will be paid to insuring the application of the Regulations respecting the state of prisons, &c.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 73.

Note Verbale.

EN réponse au Mémorandum et au projet de réformes présentés par leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs d'Angleterre, de France, et de Russie, le Gouvernement Impérial tout en confirmant la note qui leur a été remise à la date du 17 Juin, ainsi que le contre-projet concernant les réformes à introduire dans les six vilayets de Sivas, Erzeroum, Van, Diarbékir, Bitlis, et Mamouret-el-Aziz, a l'honneur de leur transmettre ci-joint un travail sur l'ensemble des réformes qui vont être introduites dans les susdites provinces et sur les six points qui ont été ajoutés en dernier lieu.

Le Gouvernement Impérial déclare en même temps à leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs qu'ayant pris acte des assurances qu'ils lui ont données au nom de leurs Gouvernements et de celle des trois Cabinets de Londres, Paris, et Saint-Pétersbourg aux Ambassadeurs Ottomans comme quoi "ces Gouvernements ne pourraient jamais songer à faire des propositions pouvant porter atteinte aux droits souverains de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et à l'indépendance de l'Empire," il va dès lors de soi que les six vilayets en question ne pourront acquérir dans l'avenir aucun caractère privilégié et qu'en cas où, par impossible, une idée pareille viendrait un jour à surgir, le Gouvernement Impérial profitera des assurances mentionnées ci-dessus.

Sublime Porte, le 5 Octobre, 1895.

Inclosure 2 in No. 73.

Further Communication from the Porte respecting proposed Reforms.

Chapitre I.—*Valis.*

1. Les Valis seront Musulmans et nommés par Iradé Impérial.
2. La durée des pouvoirs des Valis n'est pas limitée.
3. Des Adjoints non Musulmans seront nommés auprès des Valis ainsi que cela est prévu au Chapitre II du Règlement de l'Administration Générale des Vilayets.

Ils ont pour attributions aux termes du dit Chapitre II de coopérer aux affaires générales du vilayet et d'en préparer l'expédition.

Chapitre II.—*Mutessarifs.*

4. Les Mutessarifs seront Musulmans et là où le Gouvernement Impérial le jugera nécessaire, il nommera auprès d'eux des Mouavins Chrétiens.

Chapitre III.—*Caïmacams.*

5. Les Caïmacams seront choisis par le Ministère de l'Intérieur parmi les diplômés de l'École Civile sans distinction de religion et nommés par Iradé Impérial.

Les Caïmacams Musulmans et non Musulmans actuellement en fonctions et reconnus capables pourront, quoique non diplômés de cette école, continuer leur carrière dans l'Administration.

6. En vue de maintenir d'une façon équitable le principe de justice et d'égalité, le Gouvernement Impérial, lorsqu'il aura à procéder à l'organisation, agira en tenant compte de la proportion du nombre de ses sujets.

Dans des cazas "ayant une position importante" des Monavins ayant une religion différente de celle du Caïmacam seront nommés.

Sont maintenus les Conseils Administratifs du sandjak, et du caza composés de membres de droit et de membres élus.

Chapitre IV.—*Nahiés.*

7. L'organisation des Nahiés sera mise en vigueur selon les prescriptions des Articles 94 à 106 du Règlement sur l'Administration Générale des Vilayets du 9 Janvier, 1286, et des Articles 1 à 28 du Règlement sur l'Administration Communale du 25 Mars, 1292.

8. Chaque Nahié sera administré par un Moudir et un Conseil composé de quatre membres élus parmi les habitants.

9. L'élection des membres du Conseil des Nahiés se fera proportionnellement aux classes de la population: si la population du cercle communal est mixte, la minorité devra être représentée proportionnellement à son importance relative, à condition qu'elle compreme au moins vingt-cinq maisons.

10. Les Moudirs, les Secrétaires des Nahiés, sont rétribués.

11. Les candidats au Conseil du Nahié devront remplir les conditions prescrites par les Règlements de l'Administration Générale de Vilayets et de l'Administration Communale.

12. Les Moudirs seront choisis et nommés par le Gouvernement Impérial.*

13. Les fonctionnaires, les professeurs, et les prêtres ne peuvent être Moudirs.

14. Les membres du Conseil seront renouvelés par moitié chaque année et rééligibles.

15. Les attributions du Moudir et des Conseils sont réglées par les Articles 20 à 27 du Règlement sur l'Administration des Communes sauf que les Moudirs seront, comme il est dit plus haut, nommés par le Gouvernement Impérial.

16. Chaque village aura un Moukhtar; s'il y a plusieurs quartiers et plusieurs classes d'habitants, il y aura un Moukhtar par quartier et par classe.

17. Aucun village ne pourra relever de deux nahiés à la fois.

Chapitre V.—*Police.*

18. La police et la gendarmerie seront recrutées parmi les sujets Ottomans dans la proportion du chiffre général des habitants Musulmans et non Musulmans du vilayet.

Des contingents suffisants seront affectés à chaque subdivision Administrative, y compris le nahié.

19. Les agents de police, affectés au service du nahié, agiront sous les ordres du Moudir et seront commandés par les Commissaires. Leurs armes et leurs uniformes seront identiques aux modèles déjà adoptés pour la police.

20. C'est la gendarmerie qui est chargée du maintien de l'ordre et de l'escorte du poste.

Chapitre VI.—*Gendarmerie.*

21. Les gendarmes seront recrutés parmi les habitants Musulmans et non Musulmans suivant les exigences locales et les officiers et sous-officiers de ce corps choisis dans les cadres de l'armée Impériale.†

La gendarmerie est entretenue et soldée aux frais des vilayets. La solde des gendarmes est supérieure à celle des soldats de l'armée Impériale et celle des officiers équivalente à la solde des officiers de l'armée Impériale.

* Modifié par le dernier des six points ajoutés.
† Modifié par le cinquième des six points ajoutés.

Chapitre VII.—*Prisons.*

22. Il sera apporté plus de soins à l'application des Règlements concernant la tenue des prisons et le traitement des détenus et des prisonniers.

Chapitre VIII.—*Comité d'Enquête Préliminaire.*

23. Le Comité d'Enquête Préliminaire fonctionnera suivant les prescriptions de l'Article 2 des Instructions sur l'Administration des Vilayets.

Chapitre IX.—*Contrôle des Kurdes.*

24. Les localités de migration des Kurdes seront fixées d'avance et un officier avec une force armée suffisante et des gendarmes accompagnera la tribu dans sa migration. Un Commissaire de Police lui sera adjoint.

Les Kurdes donneront des ôtages pendant leurs migrations.

Les Règlements sur les feuilles de route et le port d'armes seront appliqués aux Kurdes. S'il y a des tribus "constamment errantes," le Gouvernement les engagera à se fixer en leur concédant des terres.

Chapitre X.—*Cavalerie Hamidié.*

25. Le port d'armes et d'uniformes par les cavaliers Hamidiés en dehors des périodes d'instruction seront défendus par des Règlements militaires à élaborer.

Dans les mêmes circonstances ils sont justiciables des Tribunaux ordinaires.

Chapitre XI.—*Titres de Propriété.*

26. On instituera au chef-lieu du vilayet et des sandjaks des Commissions pour la revision des titres des propriétés. Ces Commissions seront composées de quatre membres (deux Musulmans et deux non Musulmans) et présidées par le Directeur des Archives ou le préposé aux Immeubles.

Leurs décisions seront soumises au Conseil d'Administration.

En outre, quatre Délégués seront envoyés chaque année de Constantinople aux vilayets pour examiner les irrégularités qui auraient pu surgir dans les affaires de propriété.

Chapitre XII.—*Perception des Dimes.*

27. "Des détachements spéciaux sont chargés de la perception des impôts, pour éviter l'emploi de la force publique. Ces détachements ne peuvent faire aucune réquisition de fourrages et de vivres. Le prélèvement et la consignation des impôts aux Caisses de l'Etat incombent aux Moukhtars et aux Receveurs des villages et quartiers élus par les habitants. Les membres des 'détachements spéciaux' n'ont pas à manier d'argent."

28. La perception de la dime se fera par voie d'affermage. L'affermage en gros reste aboli et a été remplacé par la mise en adjudication par village et au nom des habitants avec recours aux Tribunaux en cas de difficultés.

La prestation en nature et en argent est maintenue. Le budget de l'Instruction Publique dans chaque vilayet est fixé par le Ministre de l'Instruction Publique.

La vente pour cause de dettes fiscales ou personnelles de la demeure du contribuable, des terrains nécessaires à sa subsistance, de ses instruments de travail, de ses bêtes de labour, de ses grains reste interdite.

Chapitre XIII.—*Justice.*

29. Il y aura dans chacune des localités un Conseil des Anciens présidé par le Moukhtar et dont la mission sera de concilier à l'amiable les contestations entre les habitants, contestations prévues par les lois judiciaires.

30. Dans les cazas il existe des Tribunaux de Première Instance dans les conditions indiquées par la Loi Organique des Tribunaux. Les fonctions de Juges de Paix sont exercées dans les villages par les Conseils des Anciens et dans les communes par les Conseils Communaux. Leurs attributions et le degré de leur compétence en matière de réglement d'affaires sont déterminées par la Loi susdite. Il n'y a aucune disposition légale qui prévoie la nomination recommandée des Juges de Paix aux chefs-lieux des cazas et des communes. Il n'y a pas non plus dans les communes et villages de personnes versées dans les questions juridiques. Il ne conviendrait conséquemment pas de nommer des Juges de Paix investis d'attributions si étendues.

31. A l'Article précédent il a été établi qu'il n'y a pas lieu de former des Tribunaux de Paix. Dès lors, il devient inutile de parler de leurs attributions.

32. En matière civile, la désignation d'arbitres ne rentre pas dans les attributions des Tribunaux. Aux termes du Code de Commerce, les Tribunaux de Commerce nomment des experts dans les procès entre Sociétés. D'ailleurs, comme il a été dit qu'il n'est pas nécessaire de former des Tribunaux de Paix, il n'y a pas lieu d'examiner encore davantage la fixation d'une pareille attribution.

33. D'après les explications qui ont été données sur l'impossibilité et l'inutilité de l'institution de Tribunaux de Paix et sur la nécessité du maintien de l'organisation actuelle de la Justice de Paix, la conservation des Tribunaux de Première Instance des districts rentre dans l'ordre naturel des choses.

34. Vu l'inutilité des Tribunaux de Paix telle qu'elle ressort des explications qui précèdent, ce que cet Article désigne comme faisant partie de leurs attributions perd toute raison d'être.

35. La nécessité du maintien des Tribunaux de Première Instance dans les cazas a été déjà expliquée. En ce qui concerne les Tribunaux Civils et Criminels des sandjaks, les lois judiciaires ne prévoient pas l'institution de Cours d'Assises ambulantes destinées à connaître des affaires criminelles en lieu et place des Tribunaux Criminels. On ne peut pas non plus se figurer l'avantage et la possibilité d'une pareille mesure, cas les difficultés des communications entraîneraient des pertes de temps dans la tournée d'une Cour de ce genre. Pendant l'hiver les routes seraient interceptées sur certains points; de telle sorte que les procès criminels, notamment les cas de flagrant délit qui exigent une instruction et un jugement à brève échéance, subiraient des retards par suite de la non apparition à temps de la Cour, ce qui en rendrait difficile la réunion de preuves et indices de nature à amener la conviction compromettrait les actions criminelles et civiles.

36. Ainsi qu'il ressort des explications données à l'Article précédent, l'organisation de Cours ambulantes est difficile et sans utilité. Il n'y a pas lieu par conséquent de déterminer le mode à suivre dans l'organisation de ces Cours.

37. Puisque le principe même de l'organisation de Cours ambulantes n'a pas été jugé conforme aux exigences de la situation, il n'y a pas lieu de s'occuper de la fixation de leurs attributions.

38. Le principe de la formation de Cours ambulantes n'ayant pas été jugé admissible, l'examen des indications contenues dans cet Article n'a pas de raison d'être.

39. La formation aux chefs-lieux des vilayets d'une Cour supérieure composé d'un Président et de deux membres constitue une proposition qui ne rentre pas dans les dispositions des lois judiciaires. Au chef-lieu de chaque vilayet il existe deux Tribunaux d'Appel, l'un civil, l'autre criminel, composés chacun d'un Président et de quatre membres, ainsi que des Tribunaux Civils et Criminels de Première Instance composés d'un Président et de deux membres.

Les Tribunaux d'Appel examinent les causes civiles et criminelles jugées par les Tribunaux de Première Instance. Quant aux procès criminels qui surgissent dans les chefs-lieux des vilayets, c'est le Tribunal d'Appel qui en connaît le premier.

Les Tribunaux Civils et Criminels de Première Instance composés chacun d'un Président et de deux membres, qui se trouvent dans les cazas, connaissent, conformément aux lois organiques des Tribunaux et aux codes de procédure civils et criminels aux chefs-lieux des sandjaks, et examinent en appel le jugement appelables des Tribunaux des cazas.

L'expérience a démontré la suffisance et l'utilité de l'organisation des Tribunaux Provinciaux. Il n'y a donc pas lieu, légalement et pratiquement parlant, de modifier cette organisation, pour former une Cour supérieure comme celle dont il est fait mention plus haut.

40. Les jugements seront exclusivement libellés en langue Turque.

Voici les six points ajoutés:—

(1.) Les avis et communications que les Drogmans auront à faire à la Commission devront se borner aux réformes dont l'application a été décidée par le Gouvernement Impérial pour les six vilayets, et ne point s'en écarter.

(2.) A l'exception des Valis et des Mutessarifs qui devront être Musulmans, des fonctionnaires Chrétiens seront nommés proportionnellement au chiffre des populations.

(3.) Il y aura dans chaque nahié des gardes champêtres; le nombre en sera fixé par les Gouverneurs-Généraux sans pouvoir excéder le chiffre de cinq pour chaque nahié.

Il va sans dire que dans les nahiés habités par des populations différentes ils seront mixtes.

Ces gardes champêtres seront choisis par le Conseil de Nahié. Leur uniforme et leur armement seront arrêtés par le Département de la Guerre.

(4.) Les Règlements existants sur les prisons seront strictement observés et appliqués.

(5.) Il y aura des officiers Chrétiens dans la police et la gendarmerie.

6. Les Moudirs des nahiés seront, conformément au Règlement, élus parmi les Conseils des Nahiés.

No. 74.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 483.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 11, 1895, 10·40 A.M.

I HAVE the honour to state, in reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 182 of the 10th October, that Article No. 8 in my telegram No. 463 of the 8th October combined three points which the Russian Ambassador has numbered separately.

No. 75.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 484.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 11, 1895, 10·45 A.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Trebizond telegraphed last evening that the troops there had been reinforced by a battalion, that martial law had been proclaimed, and that no further disturbances had occurred.

No. 76.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 485.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 11, 1895, 10·55 A.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram of 10th October No. 181.

I have great hopes that, if the Ambassadors are allowed a certain latitude, we may be able, without great delay, to get the reforms accepted by the Sultan. The main points are already conceded in principle, and little remains except questions of wording and "rédaction." This opinion is confirmed by a conversation I had this morning with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who called to express the Sultan's thanks for our success in inducing the refugees to quit the churches.

No. 77.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 486.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 11, 1895, 11·25 A.M.*

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 178 of the 10th October repeating a telegram received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, I think that the three Embassies who have been acting in complete accord, will no doubt find their hands greatly strengthened by their success in clearing the churches of refugees.

The Sultan and his Government seem now to realize the danger of the situation, and will probably be ready to follow our advice.

In the event of any further troubles in the provinces we shall not fail to press the Government to adopt such measures as we may deem advisable. Both the Sultan and the Patriarch have sent this morning to express their gratitude for our action in clearing the Armenian churches, and their belief that it will have a good effect in restoring confidence.

No. 78.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 488.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 11, 1895, 8 P.M.*

IN continuation of my telegram No. 482 of yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Dragomans having again visited the churches, have now been successful in inducing all the refugees to leave.

Their total number amounted to 2,414, of whom about 12 per cent. carried arms.

No. 79.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 489.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 11, 1895, 9·10 P.M.*

THE Dragomans were to-day informed by the Minister of Police that a Commission had been named to inquire into the cases of all prisoners arrested in connection with the recent disturbances, and to release immediately all who are not accused of any serious crime. The Minister undertook to examine any cases of murder that might be brought before him and expressed his readiness to punish any officials guilty of torturing the prisoners, if proofs were furnished by the Embassies.

No. 80.

Sir E. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, October 11, 1895.*

COUNT KAPNIST, to whom I have communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 189, has promised to submit it to the Emperor through M. Chichkine.

No. 81.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, October 11, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to telegram No. 54 from your Lordship, that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in Constantinople will be addressed by Count Goluchowski in the sense suggested by you. His Excellency is very grateful for the information which your Lordship's telegrams placed me in a position to give him.

His Excellency says that it is difficult for him to come forward prominently on the subject of Armenian reforms owing to the persistence of Germany in an attitude of indifference, as he is unwilling that the Sultan should believe that, on this question, divergent views are held by the members of the Triple Alliance, but he will instruct Baron Calice to do all he possibly can to impress on the Sultan that the proposals of the three Ambassadors must be accepted by him.

No. 82.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 11, 1895, 1·30 P.M.*

I CONSULTED Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the communication made to you by the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting the present situation in Turkey, and reported in your telegram No. 70 of the 9th instant.

In my immediately preceding telegram I repeat to you Sir P. Currie's reply, and I shall be glad if you will communicate its substance to Count Goluchowski. It appears from this telegram that matters are progressing satisfactorily for the present at Constantinople.

No. 83.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 286.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 10, 1895.*

I FOUND Count Goluchowski yesterday very much disturbed by telegrams received from Constantinople and Trebizond as to an outbreak of murderous fanaticism at the latter port, which, his Excellency said, taken in conjunction with the horrors which have been committed in the Turkish capital, inspired him with grave apprehensions that the lives of Christians throughout Turkey might shortly be in imminent peril.

Count Goluchowski said that he had just sent telegrams to the Imperial Ambassadors at all the great capitals, instructing them to inquire and report at once the views of the Government to which they are accredited, and stating that he is of opinion himself that all the Ambassadors at the Porte should collectively bring the strongest pressure to bear upon the Turkish Government, and insist upon effective measures being taken to protect all Christians in the Ottoman dominions. The Sultan and his Government should be explicitly informed that they will be held responsible for whatever happens.

Count Goluchowski charged me to state to your Lordship that he thinks the gravity of the situation cannot be exaggerated, and that instant action is necessary not only in the above sense but in compelling the Sultan to come to an agreement with England, France, and Russia on the question of Armenian reforms.

He said that Austria had hitherto held aloof, but that a catastrophe seemed approaching in which her interests would be concerned; and as he wishes to act in

accord with your Lordship he will be glad to be placed in possession of your exact views and intentions.

His Excellency's language was throughout very forcible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 84.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 490.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 12, 1895, 12·30 P.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Trebizond telegraphed to-day that it is estimated by local authorities that in Tuesday's disturbance there were killed 182 Armenians and 11 Turks, and wounded 19 Armenians, 26 Turks, and 1 Greek.

No. 85.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 491.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 12, 1895, 8·10 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 488 of the 11th October, I have the honour to report that a few refugees have returned to the church in Pera, as they were refused admission to their former lodgings by the Turkish landlords. The Dragomans informed the Minister of Police, who at once sent orders that these refugees should be admitted to their houses.

Their engagement in regard to the refugees appear to be loyally carried out by the Turkish authorities, and they have ceased making arbitrary arrests.

No. 86.

[Nil.]

No. 87.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 659. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 9, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter which I have received from the Armenian Patriarch praying that the execution of Armenian Reforms should be under European control.

A similar letter was addressed to the other Embassies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 87.

The Armenian Patriarch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidentielle.)
M. l'Ambassadeur, *Patriarcat Arménien, Constantinople, le 6 Octobre*, 1895.

A L'OCCASION du projet des réformes proposées par les trois Grandes Puissances, en vue des provinces habitées par les Arméniens, nous avons eu, à plusieurs reprises, l'honneur d'appeler la bienveillante attention de leurs Excellences les Ambassadeurs de ces Puissances sur la nécessité de placer l'exécution du projet sous la surveillance et le contrôle directe des Puissances Européennes.

Des faits évidents continuent à démontrer d'une manière pitoyable qu'il ne sera pas possible de tirer du dit projet le profit attendu, tant que cette condition essentielle n'y sera pas annexée et que l'exécution en sera abandonnée au mode ordinaire. L'extrême gravité de la situation nous fait un devoir de revenir sur ce point, bien que nous soyons profondément impressionné par le spectacle douloureux étalé sous nos yeux.

Considérant, en effet, que la condition du contrôle constitue simplement une question de vie et de mort pour une population Chrétienne, persécutée et noyée dans le sang; considérant qu'à cette condition seule pourra se réaliser le désir manifesté, dans un si noble esprit, par les Grandes Puissances de l'Europe généreuse et civilisée de mettre fin aux souffrances de cette population et d'établir l'ordre et la sécurité dans le pays, nous osons, M. l'Ambassadeur, recourir à votre Excellence et implorer de vous la grâce d'appeler sur ce point, avec votre haute intelligence, la sollicitude de votre Gouvernement, afin que les Grandes Puissances Européennes veuillent bien soumettre l'exécution du projet de réformes à leur contrôle collectif ou même au contrôle de celles entre elles qu'elles jugeraient convenable de charger de ce soin.

En confiant votre Excellence, &c.

Le Patriarche des Arméniens de Turquie,
(Signé) MADTÉOS.

No. 88.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 660.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 9, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Moush, reporting the dismissal of police officers complained of with reference to abuses in tax collection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Moush, September* 16, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th instant, I am glad to report that the three Captains of Police, Reshid, Hajji Feim, and Iskender have now been dismissed.

I hear that even now the Mutessarif has assured them that this is only a temporary measure.

I may add that many of the zaptiehs (privates) have not received any pay for the last eight months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 89.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 661. Confidential.)

Therapia, October 9, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 653, Confidential, of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit a Report drawn up by Mr. Shipley of a further visit which, by my instruction, he paid to the Patriarchate on the 6th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Memorandum by Mr. Shipley.

(Very Confidential.)

I PROCEEDED to-day to the Armenian Patriarchate, as instructed by his Excellency the Ambassador, and found his Beatitude in the company of Artin Pasha.

The latter, to whom I handed your letter, after a short reference to recent events, dwelling, however, on the fact of the massacres and the desperate condition of the Armenians, begged me to convey to his Excellency the following facts.

He, Artin Pasha, had had two audiences of the Sultan, at the first of which, viz., last night, His Majesty had ordered him to visit the Patriarch, and, acting in accord with the latter, assure, on the part of His Majesty, the Armenians shut up in the churches, that nothing would happen to them if they came out and dispersed. Artin Pasha further stated that while at the first audience he learned that a Report had been drawn up by Kiamil, Turkhan, Rifaat, and Riza Pashas, and presented to His Majesty, recommending a blockade of the churches and to allow no one either to go in or come out—the pretext made use of being that the official communication recently published in the papers had had no attention paid to it by the Armenians.

On receiving His Majesty's order, Artin Pasha proceeded the same night to the Patriarchate, and in the presence of his Beatitude spoke to three or four of the Armenians shut up in the church at Koum Kapou, and informed them that the Sultan had given him, Artin Pasha, full power to act, to promise them an amnesty, in fact, to give them all the necessary assurances if they would come out quietly.

To this the Armenians replied: "We believe you and the Patriarch, but you yourself may have been deceived. We have no confidence in him who sent you; we are in Turkey;" and although he, Artin Pasha, for the space of three hours, endeavoured to persuade them he did not succeed, although he states they were shaken. He and the Patriarch had further told the Armenians that they could go out gradually by sixes or so at a time, and that if anything happened to any one of them the churches would still be open to them as a refuge. The Armenians, however, were not persuaded, and demanded the immediate execution of the reforms for which they had been waiting nine months.

Artin Pasha then returned to the Sultan, and informed the latter that although he and the Patriarch had done all in their power, they had only succeeded in shaking, not convincing, the Armenians. At this second audience, Artin Pasha informed me, he had most earnestly begged the Sultan not to give the order for the blockade of the churches, pointing out to His Majesty the dangers to which it would give rise, such as the fanaticism of the Mussulmans residing near the Patriarchate (a danger upon which the Patriarch also strongly insisted to me)—the people who would starve and thereby become desperate, and the Sultan upon these representations countermanded the order at once.

Artin Pasha then went on to say most confidentially that the Sultan's *amour-propre* was now concerned; His Majesty wished to show his Ministers that he had been able to solve the difficulty by peaceful means. He, Artin Pasha, however desired me to point out to his Excellency that the Sultan might at any moment be obliged to give way, owing to the persistence of the Ministers, and to the fact, which would be strongly insisted on by the latter, that no notice had been taken of the official communication above referred to.

Artin Pasha added that the Sultan now thought that the blockade had been counselled in order to expressly create a state of panic and disturbance which in turn would be made use of to dethrone him. Artin Pasha further stated that it was Kiamil Pasha who had strongly insisted on the necessity of the blockade, going so far as to

declare that he would resign if the measure in question were not adopted. On this account, it was Kiamil Pasha who would be the next Minister to be dismissed.

Under these circumstances, therefore, Artin Pasha desired me to inform your Excellency that the matter was one of the greatest urgency; that together with the Patriarch he begged me to say to his Excellency that the deputation of the Armenians above alluded to had said they would believe England, and that, in consequence, if his Excellency would only cause it to be conveyed to these Armenians that no harm could come to them, and that the reforms would be immediately published, they would at once come out and go peaceably to their occupations.

Both Artin Pasha and his Beatitude spoke of the deep gratitude felt by every Armenian towards England, and of the influence over them possessed by the latter country.

At the close of the interview, I asked his Beatitude whether he himself thought that any harm would come to Armenians if they came out. His Beatitude replied that, speaking as Armenian Patriarch, he was obliged to say that Abdul Hamid had made so many promises to the Armenians, none of which had been fulfilled, that he himself hesitated to believe.

Artin Pasha, on the other hand, thought that this time the Sultan was sincere, since his own person was at stake, and advised, therefore, his Excellency to send some kind of message to the Armenians, as to whose desperation there was no doubt whatever.

(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

October 6, 1895.

No. 90.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 663.)

Constantinople, October 9, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 432 of the 26th September, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting increase of Armenian agitation in that town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Erzeroum, September 25, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Armenian revolutionary agents belonging to the Hintchag and Tashnaktsagan organizations are daily growing more active at Erzeroum, and that several fresh agitators are reported to have arrived here recently from Russia.

I am informed that they have threatened one or two of the Armenian Notables who are members of the Administrative Council of the vilayet with violence if they continue to sit on the Council, and have demanded money of them to be used for the purposes of their agitation, such as buying arms, &c.

Though these agents are mostly Russian Armenians, and their organizations are to be found in Tiflis, Kars, and other towns of the Caucasus Government, it is said that they are now acting under orders emanating from a Committee established in London.

I had the honour to report the substance of the above to your Excellency by telegraph to-day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 91.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 664.)
Therapia, October 9, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the distribution of relief funds in Sasun. Dr. Reynolds' Report, forming the inclosure to Mr. Graves' despatch, has been sent to the President of the Local Armenian Relief Fund, by whom it will be communicated to the Duke of Westminster.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, September 26, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith Dr. Reynolds' Report on relief operations in Sasun for the week ended the 16th September, which reached Moush too late for Mr. Hampson to write any covering despatch to it.

The work of rebuilding seems to progress satisfactorily, the chief difficulty being the lack of timber for roofing, which the local authorities had engaged to supply, and expense exceeding 500*l.* is likely to fall on the relief funds under this head; while the need of clothing and bedding is being urgently felt on account of the colder weather which has set in. Dr. Reynolds confirms Mr. Hampson's estimate of 15,000*l.* as absolutely necessary to keep the Sasun people alive over the winter, and enable them to provide for the future; and he appeals urgently for funds to be sent in time to get the winter supplies into the suffering district before the roads are closed.

If the sum required is forthcoming from various sources, I would suggest that the missionaries should be informed by telegraph without delay that they can expend the funds now in hand without fear upon matters of immediate necessity, and begin to place their orders for winter provisions to be held in readiness for immediate transport.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 92.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 665.)
Constantinople, October 9, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, giving an account of the progress of Shakir Pasha's Mission, and inclosing summary of the latter's scheme for the reorganization of police, gendarmerie, and prisons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, September 27, 1895.

Sir,

AS I had the honour to report to your Excellency by telegraph on the 24th instant, Shakir Pasha with his suite left Erzeroum that day for Bayazid. His Excellency was also accompanied by Mr. Sachtleben, an American gentleman who has passed four or five months at Erzeroum endeavouring to throw light upon the circumstances under which the late Mr. F. Leng met his death last year in Alashgird, and by the Rev. W. Chambers, of Erzeroum, who volunteered to assist Mr. Sachtleben in his search. Shakir Pasha has promised to afford Mr. Sachtleben all possible assistance, and it will be interesting to see whether he will now clear this matter up, as he certainly has the power of doing, or whether he will allow the local authorities to persist in obstructing the course of justice by denying any knowledge of Mr. Leng's fate, and concealing all traces of this supposed murder.

Since the arrival of Shakir Pasha's Mission on the 9th September, his Excellency has certainly been active in inquiry into every branch of administration. He has visited the prison, and expressed himself very strongly on the miserable condition of its inmates, as well as on the neglect of the judicial authorities, whereby prisoners are allowed to remain for years awaiting trial. He also put seals on all the Government safes with a view to audit, but as they were nearly all empty no useful purpose was served by this measure. A programme is also being prepared under his direction for the construction of new roads, and for the repair and maintenance of the one road which already exists, that from Trebizond to Erzeroum. His Excellency has also made a recommendation as to the working of the coal-mines in this neighbourhood, which I hardly think practical, namely, that it should be undertaken by the Municipality of Erzeroum.

The subjects, however, which have received his closest attention are the organization of the gendarmerie, police and prison organizations, and the creation of a corps of "tahsildars" for tax-collecting purposes. The Erzeroum official paper has just published his scheme dealing with these questions, a summary of which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

The most noticeable fact in connection with Shakir Pasha's Mission is the absolute refusal of the Armenians to have anything to say to it. They took no part in the official reception given to his Excellency on his arrival at Erzeroum, nor has the Armenian Archbishop, as Head of the community, called upon him, and he is said to be much incensed against his Beatitude, and to have reported very unfavourably of him to Constantinople.

My Russian colleague has endeavoured to persuade the Archbishop to meet Shakir Pasha, and to accept any advantages or concessions the latter might make to the Armenians, but without success. Five Armenian Notables summoned in succession to serve as members of the Commission for the Reorganization of the Gendarmerie, Prisons, &c., have declined that honour. A young Armenian Catholic, similarly invited, was about to accept, but was dissuaded therefrom by the advice, not unmixed with menace, of his Gregorian neighbours, and Shakir has had to content himself with a Greek grocer as the only Christian member of his Commission. Not a single Armenian recruit has presented himself for enrolment in the gendarmerie or police, although it is said that an offer was made to an Armenian tradesman of the town of 10*l.* bounty for every Armenian recruit he would bring before the Commission up to ten in number.

It must be added that in the present temper of the Armenians, who are being worked upon by revolutionary agents from the Caucasus, any of them who accepted Shakir Pasha's overtures would do so at some personal risk. Under these circumstances, and in default of funds to carry out even the meagre programme which has been put forward, it is not surprising if Shakir Pasha shows signs of discouragement, while local opinion is almost unanimous to the effect that the drafting of this programme is all that he will accomplish, and that the Commission will eventually be withdrawn, like so many preceding Turkish Reform Commissions, leaving a bill for its expenses, amounting to over 1,000*l.* a-month, to be settled by the local Treasury, when it is able, as the only record of its passage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 92.

Summary of Scheme published by Erzeroum Official Paper.

A COMMISSION is formed of military officers and Mussulman and Christian members, under the direction of his Excellency Shakir Pasha, comprising one military officer as President, and two members, one Moslem and one Christian, from among the respectable Notables, whose duty it will be to recruit the necessary number of gendarmes to make up the present deficiency in the gendarmerie from the non-Moslem population; to reorganize the gendarmerie regiment so formed, and to tell it off to its proper stations.

Gendarmerie.—Four "tabours" (battalions) will be formed, one for each of the Sanjaks of Erzinjan, Bayazid, and Erzeroum, and the fourth at head-quarters at Erzeroum.

Each "tabour" will comprise three cavalry "beuluks" (companies).

Composition of Beuluks.

	Cavalry.	Infantry.
Beuluk Aghassi (Capitain)	1	1
1st Lieutenants	1	1
2nd Lieutenants	1	1
Chaoushes (sergeants)	5	4
Beuluk Emini (sergeant)	1	1
Onbashis (corporals)	10	8
Privates	50	64
	69	80
	9 companies.	7 companies
	621	560
	= 1,181	
1 Colonel: Alai Bey	1	
1 Alai Kiatibi (Regimental clerk)	1	
Majors (Tabour Aghassi)	4	
Tabour Kiatibi (Company clerks)	9	
Total	1,196	

(N.B.—It will be seen that this Table only provides for nine cavalry beuluks, whereas, in the preceding paragraph, it is stated that there will be four tabours, each comprising three cavalry beuluks, $4 \times 3 = 12$.—R. W. G.)

The number of men now wanting is to be made up of Christians, who will be distributed among the different companies.

The head-quarters "beuluk" of foot gendarmerie to be employed for prison and guard-house duties, Government-house, and town patrols.

The cavalry "beuluks" will serve alternately, one for country duty, one detached for the sanjaks, where most needed, and one at head-quarters. The sanjak "tabours" to be detailed for road duties and cordons in the cazas.

New gendarmes not to be recruited from the people of the district where the "tabour" serves. Gendarmes no longer to be employed for tax-collecting, as special "tahsildars" will now be appointed.

Christians desirous of serving to present themselves before the Commission, and after satisfying the latter of their good character, &c., they will be enlisted, sworn in, and told off to their respective "beuluks." No difference will be made between them and their Mussulman comrades. Similar recruiting commissions will be formed in the sanjaks to that at Erzeroum.

Police and Tahsildars.—Recruits who can read and write can join the police, and those acquainted with arithmetic can be enrolled as "tahsildars" (collectors).

Gendarmes already in service who possess these qualifications can be appointed as police or "tahsildars."

Cazas not divided into "nahiés" will have one "chaoush" and three "tahsildars." In those cazas which are divided into "nahiés," besides one "tahsildar" for each

"nahié," the caza will have three or four "tahsildars;" and in the capital of the sanjak there will be one "bash chaoush," two "chaoushes," and four "tahsildars," while in the capital of the vilayet there will be a "chief tahsildar," two "chaoushes," and six "tahsildars," enrolled from Mussulmans and Christians alike, able to read and keep accounts. They will be placed under the orders of the "Mal Mudirs." They are not to call in the assistance of the gendarmerie; their duties in tax-collecting do not comprise the actual handling of the money, which will be collected by the members of the Councils of Elders, and brought by the Headmen to the caza capital. Regulations will be drawn up later for the "Mal Mudirs'" departments.

Police.—Each "nahié" will have one police agent. Each caza at least three police agents, under a third class commissary. Each sanjak at least five police agents, one second class and two third class commissaries. At the capital of the vilayet there will be ten police agents under one chief commissary, two second class and two third class commissaries.

Municipal Guards.—The duties of municipal guards are to attend to the maintenance of order and cleanliness in the streets, in which they will be assisted wherever necessary by the police.

Prison Warders.—The capital of each caza will have one prison warder, the capital of each sanjak will have eight, and the capital of the vilayet twelve. There will be a chief warder in the vilayet and sanjak capitals. Their duties are to guard the gaols, and perform the necessary prison services, and to keep the prisons clean; they will be placed directly under the Director of Prisons, without whose orders, in writing, no one can be imprisoned or released from prison.

Persons arrested by police or gendarmes cannot be detained more than twenty-four hours without a warrant from the judicial authorities, the Director of Prisons being held responsible if this rule is infringed. Persons arrested summarily can only be detained for twenty-three hours, after which a written Report must be sent in on the subject to the Procureur-Général and the chief local authority.

25 *Rebi-ul-Evvel*, 1313 (*September* 1 (13), 1895).

No. 93.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 666.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 9, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 586 of the 9th September, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting that no steps have been taken by the authorities at Cæsarea to investigate the affray which recently took place between Mussulmans and Christians in that neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, October* 2, 1895.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Cumberbatch's despatch to your Excellency of the 2nd ultimo, setting forth the details of an attack made by armed Mussulmans at Talas, near Cæsarea, upon four young Armenians whose names he specifies, I have the honour to report that, according to information received by me from the district in question, no investigation whatever has been made by the Cæsarea authorities with a view to the arrest of the guilty parties. The originators of the attack are said to be the son-in-law of the Talas Chief of Police, the son of a local Turkish Notable, and a vineyard "bekji."

I have made representations upon the subject to the Vali, who has promised to have the necessary investigations made, and to inform me of the result, which I shall not fail to at once report to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 94.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 667.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of certain notifications of official appointments and transfers in various vilayets which have of late been published in the Turkish newspapers.

Some remarks upon the antecedents of certain of the officials in question are annexed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Extracts from the "Saadit."

September 27, 1895.

(Translation.)

HIS Excellency Raouf Pasha, Vali of Mamuret-ul-Aziz, to be Vali of Erzeroum.

Raouf Pasha has a reputation for energy and integrity, but is now growing old. The appointment, however, on the whole is a good one.

The Sheikh of Darin, a dependency of the Caza of Katif, in the Basrah Vilayet, has, owing to his faithful services, received promotion in his rank.

October 1, 1895.

Mehmed Hafid Effendi, formerly Kaïmakam of Tchal, suppressed, to be Kaïmakam of Shirvan, in the Bitlis Vilayet.

October 3, 1895.

His Excellency Enis Pasha, Acting Vali of Diarbekir, has been confirmed in his appointment.

Fakhan Pasha, Mutessarif of Bayezid, has been appointed Mutessarif of Moush.

Arifi Pasha, Mutessarif of Moush, to be Mutessarif of Bayezid.

Arifi Pasha was appointed in the place of Djelaleddin Bey shortly after the Sasun massacre, and later on acted in deliberate disobedience of the orders of the Acting Vali of Bitlis for the dismissal of the officers guilty of abuses in the collection of taxes at Moush.

Ismail Hakki Effendi, Kaïmakam of Florina, to be Kaïmakam of the Tchaltchelor Caza, in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

No. 95.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 668.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 10, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Russian and French Governments having authorized their respective Ambassadors to concert with me the points in the "Projet de Réformes" of the 11th May, which we consider necessary for the protection of the life and property of the Armenians, we held a meeting on the

7th instant, and I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of the provisions which we agreed to recommend to our Governments as necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Provisions recommended to the Governments of Great Britain, France, and Russia, as necessary for the Protection of the Life and Property of the Armenians.

THE reforms will be formulated in a General Act which will be drawn up in Agreement with the Powers, and inserted in the Imperial Decree promulgating them.

2. A Christian assistant to Shakir Pasha, whose name should be unofficially submitted to the Powers.

3. The participation of Christians in the administration to be specified, and the posts of Vali and Mutessarif to be open to Christians.

4. The Dragomans to have the right of addressing to the Commission of Control any complaint, communication, or information which the Embassies may think desirable, but to be debarred from asking for any reforms beyond those granted in the Decree.

The Commission of Control to fix the number of Christian functionaries in proportion to the population for each vilayet.

5. Christian assistants to be attached to Mahommedan Valis and Mutessarifs.

6. The right of the Ambassadors to remonstrate against the appointment of incapable, dishonest, or fanatical Valis to be reserved in the note to the Porte.

7. The number of rural guards to be fixed by the Vali on the recommendation of the Mudir and in conformity with local requirements.

8. A note to be addressed by the Ambassadors to the Porte taking act of the promises made respecting prisons, arbitrary arrests, amnesty, reinstatement of emigrants, regulations for the Hamidié cavalry, and insisting upon their complete and immediate execution.

9. A stipulation that the principles of the reform scheme will be applied to all the sandjaks and cazas of Asia Minor, where the Christians form a notable part of the population.

No. 96.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 670.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 10, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond reporting on the ill-treatment of villagers in the Sivas vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, October 1, 1895.*

THE following substance of a Petition from some villagers of Tonous to the Vali of Sivas has been sent me by Dr. Jewett in his letter of the 24th ultimo, with the remark that the cruelties complained of therein are similar to those reported from many other parts of the vilayet:—

"That we are ever and always ready to pay our taxes and obey the law and sacrifice our lives and property to the idol of justice and righteousness is clear and natural.

Nevertheless, the great injustice and oppression done to our 'carieh'* by Edhem Effendi, a man who has been in the service of the Deputy of the Treasury in the Kaïmakamlik of Tonous, and who came here with five zaptiehs to collect taxes, oblige us to report to your Excellency and call your attention to the matter.

"1. After he beat some of our people he took off the clothes of two men, and leaving them entirely naked, he beat them terribly, breaking several sticks on them, to the effect that one of them is in bed and his life in danger.

"2. He put fire on the breasts of some of our villagers, saying, 'No matter what we do, it is hardly enough. He who gives money is the crown of my head; he who does not give, the inside of my anus.' And what else did not Edhem Effendi say? things not fit to write or even think of.

"3. Before this our 'carieh' paid 3,367 piastres, which they took, and then he shut up our animals in the stables for two days and left them thirsty and without straw, as a result of which we lost three animals, the legs of two were broken, and ten miscarried.

"The oppression which our people suffer is great. In other 'cariehs' near by they did the same and other outrages of all sorts against morality, justice, honour, &c. For example, at the time when they were at the 'carieh' of Pataran they took a pleasing woman, and raki† and davul zourna‡ from the 'carieh' of Cantaros, and drunk and danced for two days and nights, and then obliged the priest of the village to pay for it. These and many other wrongs are known to everybody.

"Furthermore, out of the money paid by our 'carieh' they took 300 piastres, saying, 'This is ours,' and they got our butter as 'dish kirasi.'§

"We, being in this condition, have no doubt that your Excellency will order an investigation with justice, as we have no doubt also that everything is true as represented; but at the same time there is no doubt that if the investigation is made with the assistance of the officials of this 'carieh' there will be no justice.

"For His Imperial Majesty's sake we beg for the order to stop such outrages and injustice."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 97.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 671.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 10, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond reporting vexatious measures recently taken to restrict expenditure by the provincial authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, October* 1, 1895.

IT has hitherto been the rule that no incidental expenses above £ T. 5 were to be incurred by the provincial authorities without and Imperial Iradé. This was bad enough, for if even granted it was granted tardily. But now it is much worse. A new Order has been issued enjoining on the Valis to telegraph weekly the amount of cash in hand and prohibiting them from making any payments, even as salaries, without the conditional sanction of the Porte. Any comments on this ill-judged innovation would, I think, be superfluous. Suffice it to say that celerity in even routine work can no longer be expected. The inexpediency of attempting to govern a province under such pecuniary restrictions is exemplified by the application made to spend a pound in the removal of nine prisoners from one gaol to another within the Trebizond district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

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* A Christian community. † Spirits. ‡ Musical instrument. § A kind of tax.

No. 98.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 673.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 10, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 656 of the 7th October, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Circular *note verbale*, addressed by the Sublime Porte to the six Embassies in reply to the collective note presented by the latter respecting the present state of insecurity in Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Note Verbale.

(Circulaire.)

DANS la note verbale qu'ils ont adressé au Ministère Impérial des Affaires Étrangères à la date du 6 de ce mois à propos des incidents qui se sont dernièrement produits à Constantinople, MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances lui font part de la préoccupation que leur inspirent les conséquences qui pourraient résulter de ces états de trouble.

La cause de la persistance de cette agitation qui préoccupe MM. les Représentants étrangers est, comme on le sait, l'obstination d'un certain nombre d'Arméniens à rester enfermés dans trois églises. On est donc fondé à espérer que si des conseils de la part de MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances exhortant les Arméniens à rentrer dans le calme venaient se joindre aux mesures prises par le Gouvernement Impérial, l'ordre et la tranquillité ne tarderaient pas à être complètement rétablis.

Le fait que depuis le premier jour de ces incidents les Musulmans ne se sont point portés à des sévices contre les Arméniens est une preuve que tant qu'ils ne seront pas attaqués par ceux-ci, ils ne prendront l'initiative d'aucune agression.

Mais si par suite de la grande étendue de la capitale des Arméniens attaquent inopinément les Musulmans et autres habitants sur des points qui leur paraîtraient propices, il est tout naturel que ceux-ci, en attendant l'arrivée de la force publique, cherchent à se défendre eux-mêmes.

MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances peuvent être sûrs que si un certain nombre d'Arméniens se sont réfugiés dans les églises dont ils ne veulent pas sortir sans avoir obtenu des garanties sérieuses pour leur liberté et leur vie, ce n'est point, comme ils le prétendent, parce que des Arméniens qui n'étaient pas mêlés au mouvement ont été arrêtés et plusieurs d'entre eux maltraités, mais bien parce que leur but réel est d'augmenter la surexcitation provoquée par les incidents qu'ils ont suscités et de préparer ainsi la voie à un autre mouvement encore plus grave; les coups de pistolet qu'ils ne cessent de tirer jour et nuit dans les églises et ailleurs et les rumeurs alarmantes qu'ils répandent en sont la preuve.

Le Lundi, jour où le mouvement a commencé, des Arméniens armés surgirent en masse et se mirent à manifester, tirant et blessant un Commandant de Gendarmerie et les Musulmans qu'ils rencontraient. Repoussés par la police, ils se dispersèrent mais pour aller se rassembler de nouveau sur d'autres points où ils attaquèrent encore la population. Les mutins étant en plus grand nombre que les agents de police et gendarmes présents, les Musulmans durent riposter et se défendre eux-mêmes.

Dans un pareil moment d'effervescence, il se peut que des représailles aient eu lieu comme cela arrive, du reste, dans les pays les plus civilisés de l'Europe, mais quant aux agressions qui se sont produits contre des Chrétiens appartenant aux autres communautés, il est prouvé qu'elles sont le fait des Arméniens mêmes. Toutefois, comme aucune plainte n'a été formulée à propos d'actes de pillage commis pas plus par des Musulmans que par des Arméniens, la nouvelle concernant la perpétration de pareils faits ne peut pas être fondée.

En vue de mettre un terme à cet état de choses, le Gouvernement Impérial n'a négligé aucune mesure; il a fait publier dans les quartiers de la ville des recommandations et conseils efficaces invitant la population Musulmane à s'abstenir de tout acte d'agression sous peine des punitions les plus sévères, des avis dans le même sens adressés au public en général, ont été insérés à diverses reprises dans les journaux et des patrouilles de

soldats, d'agents de police, et de gendarmes ne cessent de circuler dans les rues. Dès lors l'allégation d'après laquelle l'autorité semblerait avoir encouragé les Musulmans à commettre des excès est inadmissible, ce qui est prouvé par le Communiqué officiel paru dans les journaux le second jour des incidents.

Il a été constaté par une enquête que deux étrangers seulement ont été par suite de certaine ressemblance arrêtés pendant les recherches faites par la police pour la découverte des prévenus, mais leur identité ayant été établie ils ont été aussitôt relâchés. La Préfecture de Police repousse formellement l'assertion comme quoi des détenus auraient été maltraités, blessés, ou tués par ses agents.

Quant à la croyance que si cette situation se prolongeait l'agitation en s'étendant pourrait gagner les provinces de l'Empire, elle est fondée. En effet, à en juger du contenu de certains écrits subversifs trouvés sur les agitateurs Arméniens, des instigations révolutionnaires avaient dû être faites préalablement dans les provinces puisque aussitôt après les incidents surgis dans la capitale, des faits séditieux ont commencé à se produire aussi dans quelques vilayets, faits qui sont réprimés au fur et à mesure qu'ils surgissent.

Pour ce qui est des mesures prises par la Sublime Porte pour prévenir le retour d'incidents regrettables, et mettre les Chrétiens et les colonies étrangères à l'abri d'éventualités périlleuses, des recommandations efficaces ont été faites, ainsi qu'il a été dit plus haut, au public par la voie des journaux et aux étudiants en théologie par son Altesse le Cheik-ul-Islam ; des conseils et avertissements ont été adressés dans les quartiers aux habitants ; et des patrouilles de soldats, d'agents de police, et de gendarmes montés et non montés circulent jour et nuit dans les rues pour le maintien de l'ordre.

Certes, cet état de choses ne peut prendre fin que si les Arméniens renoncent à leurs menées révolutionnaires. Il est évident qu'en empêchant la fourniture de vivres à ceux qui sont réfugiés dans les églises, on les obligerait à les évacuer, mais les autorités impériales espérant arriver à les en déloger par la persuasion n'ont pas voulu jusqu'ici pousser plus loin les dispositions adoptées et elles ne cessent de faire à cet effet des recommandations tant au Patriarcat qu'aux Notables de la communauté.

Le Gouvernement Impérial remercie MM. les Représentants étrangers de leur désir de lui prêter leur concours pour rétablir la tranquillité dans les esprits. Une Commission a été déjà chargée d'examiner les motifs de l'arrestation des détenus et tous ceux dont la mise en liberté est jugée nécessaire sont immédiatement relaxés.

Sublime Porte, le 8 Octobre, 1895.

No. 99.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 674.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 10*, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 596 of the 16th September, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note which I have received from Saïd Pasha in reply to my note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs demanding the arrest and punishment of the authors of the murderous attack on the Consuls at Jeddah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 99.

Saïd Pasha to Sir P. Currie.

M. l'Ambassadeur; *Sublime Porte, le 8 Octobre*, 1895.

LA Sublime Porte a examiné avec l'attention la plus sérieuse la note que votre Excellence a bien voulu adresser à mon Département en date du 13 Septembre dernier, relativement à l'incident regrettable de Djeddah.

Il est vrai que certaines circonstances, telles que : les grandes chaleurs, l'état sanitaire de la localité, le retour des pèlerins et d'autres causes n'ont pas permis jusqu'ici l'emploi des troupes Impériales pour mettre la main sur ces individus impliqués dans l'incident de Djeddah, et qui se trouvent être des Bédouins appartenant à la tribu de Sahafa de Hedjaz ; mais il n'en est pas moins vrai que son Altesse le Chérif de la Mecque déclare, dans sa

récente communication, qu'il travaille actuellement d'accord avec son Excellence le Vali à se faire remettre ces Bédouins par des moyens de persuasion, et que si l'on n'y arrive pas dans l'espace de quinze jours on ne manquera pas au mois d'Octobre prochain (v. s.) de faire marcher en nombre suffisant de troupes de l'armée Impériale contre la susdite tribu. Son Altesse donne à ce sujet les assurances les plus positives.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence, j'ai hâte d'ajouter que le Gouvernement Impérial vient de renouveler ses ordres péremptoires aux autorités du Hedjaz afin qu'elles aient à faire le nécessaire sans aucun retard pour capturer, morts ou vifs, les prévenus dont il s'agit.

J'espère que je serai à même de communiquer bientôt à votre Excellence la nouvelle de leur arrestation et que justice ne tardera pas à être rendue dans le déplorable incident qui a fait l'objet de la note de votre Excellence.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAÏD.

No. 100.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 675.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 10*, 1895.

THE fall of the Grand Vizier, Saïd Pasha, was very sudden, though not unexpected.

On several occasions when he had tendered his resignation to the Sultan it had been refused, but on the 2nd instant he was summarily dismissed. The immediate circumstance of his fall, as related to me by himself, were as follows :—

In consequence of the disturbances in Constantinople he had been ordered to sleep at the Palace.

On the day of his fall he had presented a Report to the Sultan on the Armenian difficulty, and had been in constant communication with His Majesty in regard to it.

These communications were prolonged during the night until at 3 o'clock A.M., without previous warning, the First Chamberlain of the Sultan came to demand the surrender of his official seal.

Kiamil Pasha had already been summoned, and was at once appointed Grand Vizier.

Saïd Pasha immediately sent for a hired carriage, and retired to his own house unattended and unhonoured.

His Majesty appears from the first to have been displeased at the advice tendered to him by Saïd Pasha, who took a very gloomy view of the situation, and, so far as he was allowed to do so, expressed his opinion strongly to his Imperial master.

In the interviews which I have had with Saïd Pasha he has impressed me very favourably. During the years which he has passed in seclusion he appears to have studied and reflected much, and the views he expresses are enlightened and statesmanlike.

He possesses in a high degree the confidence of Mussulmans as well as Christians, and is generally regarded as the first statesman in the Empire.

His successor, Kiamil Pasha, has a high reputation for ability, but the same confidence is not felt in his probity as in that of Saïd Pasha.

He is of a more supple nature than his predecessor, and it is possible that this may give him an advantage in dealing with the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 101.

Telegram from the Porte to the Turkish Embassy in London.—(Communicated by Morel Bey, October 14.)

Constantinople, le 12 Octobre, 1895.

LE 20 Septembre dernier deux Arméniens de Trébizonde ont tiré sur Bahri Pacha, ex-Vali de Van, et le Commandant Militaire, et les ont blessés. Les assaillants ont été arrêtés. Deux jours après un Arménien ayant blessé dans une rixe un soldat, des désordres se sont produits, mais ils ont été réprimés grâce aux mesures adoptées par les autorités Impériales. Cependant quatre jours après, les Arméniens ayant inopinément attaqué les

Musulmans, des troubles ont éclaté de nouveau à Méidani-Charki, point très fréquenté de la ville, et les Musulmans et les Arméniens en sont venus aux mains. A la suite des coups de feu tirés par des Arméniens sur les agents de police et les officiers de la gendarmerie qui avaient été chargés de leur donner des conseils d'apaisement, qui ne furent nullement écoutés, la bagarre a pris de telles proportions qu'il y a eu de part et d'autre des morts et des blessés, dont le nombre pour les Musulmans est de onze morts et vingt-cinq blessés, et un soldat blessé; et pour les Arméniens est de 182 morts, dont cinq femmes et dix-neuf blessés, dont quatre femmes. Depuis, l'ordre et la tranquillité ont été rétablis.

No. 102.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 493.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 14, 1895, 10·20 P.M.

YESTERDAY the Minister for Foreign Affairs came to Therapia and had a long meeting with the three Ambassadors on the subject of Armenian reforms.

We communicated to him the several points of our additional demands, and we agreed that he should return to-day accompanied by Munir Bey, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Turkish correspondence, who would, in concert with our three Delegates, draw up a draft of the Act in which the reforms are to be embodied for publication.

This has now been done, and the three Ambassadors, together with Said Pasha, have revised the draft.

Nothing further is needed except the final sanction of His Imperial Majesty.

Said Pasha, after having seen the Sultan, will meet us again to-morrow.

No. 103.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 123.)
My Lord, *Athens, October* 10, 1895.

THE Government press in Athens, in comments on the late events at Constantinople, represent the excitement of the Armenians as having been artificially fostered, and dwells upon the friendliness with which the authorities in that capital are treating the Greek Christians.

The duty of the Greek Government, says the "Palingenesia" (not M. Delyanni's own paper, but edited by a supporter of his), is to shut its ears against wild reports, and watch events. The attempts of the Armenians, notwithstanding the encouragement received from London, will fail. It is folly to hope to form an Armenian barrier against Russian advance in Asia; even if it were formed, it would be even weaker than the Bulgarian barrier, which England with such feverish haste erected, and which has been proved to be composed of straw. Consequently, the demand for reforms, if such reforms are to be applied by the Turkish Government, is illusory; if England were really in earnest, and succeeded in forming an independent Armenia, the fate of the Armenians would not improve; they might change masters, but, like the Cypriotes, they would labour in servitude and make no progress.

To this an independent paper, the "Estia," answers that it is clear the present Ministry is endeavouring to make advances to the Franco-Russian alliance: the presence of Prince Nicolas at Mirenont, the voyage of M. Nicolas Delyanni to Copenhagen, the report from Paris of the conclusion of a Greek Loan under the guarantee of Russia, and the violent attack in the Government paper on English policy in the East all point to this; and the article concludes by saying that the personal feelings of the Prime Minister for France should not be allowed to influence the policy of the country, which policy should be the result of cool judgment. The article concludes that it is to be regretted that the events above mentioned should have occurred if no policy had been deliberately chosen, and it behoves the Government to pay more attention to the language of the press over which it has influence.

I merely allude to these articles as they might be mentioned in the European press, though I think they have no other interest.

The Greek mind cannot comprehend the humanitarian view of the Armenian question, and thinks it a political game, each party working for its own hand. The only time M. Skouzès has spoken to me on the subject I told him, though I had no late information, I was satisfied that the Great Powers were acting in unison at Constantinople, and that what they insisted upon would be done.

As for M. Delyanni's predelictions, he is a remnant of the foolish days when Greek politicians attached themselves to foreign Missions, and there were English, French, and Russian parties; but from the complaints of the French Chargé d'Affaires to me of the impossibility of getting any results to his representations to the Minister, I fancy that beyond a few vixenish utterances against England, which he may imagine must be agreeable to its supposed rival for the affections of Greece, M. Delyanni's French sympathies do not lead him very far.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 104.

Consul-General Grant to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Warsaw, October* 12, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the "Warshawski Dniewnik," which seldom misses an opportunity of venting its animosity against England, has a leading article, in its issue of the 27th ultimo (9th instant), on the Armenian question and the recent events at Constantinople, which concludes as follows:—

"There is no doubt that the appointment of Kiamil Pasha is an important concession to England, but its practical results are doubtful. Although Russia, France, and England are acting in concert in the Armenian question, their interests are far from being the same. What England wants in Armenia is sufficiently well known, and it is not only contrary but hostile to Russian interests. If France and Russia have joined England in the Armenian question, it has only been in order to mitigate her excessive demands and control her action. We may hope that the Sultan will understand the danger to the Porte itself of the English pretensions, and that the appointment of Kiamil Pasha will not lead to serious practical results. To give the Armenians an extensive political autonomy, or to create an independent Armenian kingdom, as has been demanded on the 30th September by the agitators arrived from London, would be a cowardly retreat before a handful of rebels, the instruments of English policy.

"Armenia, no doubt, needs some interior reforms, but these reforms should not interfere with the principle of the sovereign right of the Sultan, and should not afford to England the possibility of making Armenia her property and an outpost against Russia. Yet such are the plans and the aspirations of England."

This is how the Government newspaper of Warsaw enlightens the subjects of the Emperor as to the action of Great Britain in the Armenian question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY GRANT.

No. 105.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 15.)

Sir, *Admiralty, October* 12, 1895.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from the Commanding Officer of Her Majesty's ship "Dolphin" at Jeddah, dated the 18th September, respecting the state of affairs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Commander Paget to Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour.

"*Dolphin*," *at Jeddah, September* 18, 1895.

Sir,

IN continuation of my last letter of proceedings of the 1st instant, I beg to report that I left Jeddah on the 2nd instant, and arrived at Suakin next day, where I found everything quiet.

On the 12th instant I received your telegram from Salonica ordering the "Scout" to Malta.

I left Suakin daylight on the 17th instant, and, experiencing a heavy northerly sea, arrived here 1 P.M., where I found Her Majesty's ship "Scout" and the French gun-boat "Étoile" (since the 16th instant) from Obokh.

She expects to remain here about a fortnight, when she will be relieved by a French man-of-war from Madagascar.

The political situation remains unchanged here. No action for the arrest of the murderers of the British Vice-Consul has been taken. The Grand Shereef and the Vali are at Mecca (from El Taif).

No reinforcement of troops have been reported as coming.

The Turkish "Sinope," flag of Admiral Sami, and gun-boat "Sayad Derja," are in the port.

The health of the ship's company is fairly satisfactory. They have greatly benefited by the visit of the ship to Suakin.

Her Majesty's ship "Scout" leaves this afternoon for Malta.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED PAGET.

No. 106.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 15.)

(No. 495.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 15, 1895, 3 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 480 of the 10th October:

There is a rumour that 10,000 men are to be sent to reinforce the garrison of the Dardanelles, but as yet no steps have been taken.

Additional submarine mines have not yet been dispatched; but additional earth-works have been commenced near Namajieh, Kafes Point, and on the hill behind Anatoli Medjidieh.

No. 107.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 15.)

(No. 496.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 15, 1895, 7·25 P.M.

GREAT activity is being shown by the Armenian Revolutionary Committee, and it is stated by the police that a further demonstration is being planned by them.

The Armenian shopkeepers had reopened their shops to-day, but they have been ordered to close again.

Forty-seven prisoners have up to the present moment been released by the Commission referred to in my telegram No. 489 of the 11th October, and Mr. Lister has received permission to visit the prisons on Wednesday.

No. 108.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 15.)

(No. 497.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 15, 1895, 4·30 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday No. 493, at a further conference which took place to-day with Said Pasha and Munir Bey, the wording of the Act embodying the reforms was finally settled, so far as concerns the Ambassadors and the Porte. To-morrow it will be submitted to the Council of Ministers, and then the Iradé of the Sultan is all that will be required.

No. 109.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 15.)

(No. 498.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 15, 1895, 7·30 P.M.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Beyrout, dated to-day:—

"The murder of a Matuali by a Druse and subsequent reprisal have given rise to disturbances in the Sidon district at Meijazun.

"The Chiefs of the Matuali summoned several thousand of their followers, who, joined by many Christians, collected together to avenge the outrages.

"Forces were also being collected by the Druses in the Sidon district and the Hauran when the Kaïmakam of Sidon arrived with a small detachment of cavalry which had been sent from Beyrout. The Governor-General states that arrangements have been made for a meeting of Chiefs to discuss terms of peace, and that the contending parties have dispersed."

No. 110.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 15.)

(No. 499.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 15, 1895, 7:30 P.M.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout:—

"On the 9th instant the British Vice-Consul at Haifa reported that the troops had been warned to hold themselves ready, and that certain Mussulmans in Acre and Haifa were holding secret meetings and buying up fire-arms in expectation of a "jehad."

"I communicated this report to the Governor-General, who made immediate inquiries, to which the authorities at both ports replied that there was no truth whatever in the statement.

"I also instructed the Vice-Consul to verify his reports, and he telegraphed yesterday that he had done so and forwarded a report.

"I am not aware, however, that any similar reports have been received by my colleagues.

"Explanations have been again demanded by the Governor-General, and the authorities have been ordered to make further investigation and to keep the public peace.

"I respectfully suggest that in view of this state of things at the ports and the insecurity of the interior, where disturbances are frequent and the lawlessness of the tribes increasing, a man-of-war for the protection of British subjects in Syria during the present crisis should be stationed at Beyrout."

No. 111.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 15.)

(No. 501.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 15, 1895.

MY telegram No. 499.

Her Majesty's Consul at Beyrout has sent the following further information about affairs at Haiffa:—

"I hear from a trustworthy source that orders have been sent to the military officers in command at various places, including Haiffa, Acre, and Nablus, to come to Beyrout for instructions.

"Previous to the events of 1860 similar steps were taken.

"Threatening language is used openly, and the soldiers are in a state of considerable excitement."

No. 112.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 500.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 16, 1895, 2 P.M.

AT Akhissar, a village on the Angora railway in the Ismidt district, with a mixed population of Turks and Armenians, a serious massacre of the latter took place recently.

It seems that the Turks attacked the Christian tradesmen in the bazaar and in their shops, without any provocation, killing more than thirty of them and carrying off their goods.

I hear that as soon as the local authorities were informed of the occurrence, they promptly took steps to restore order.

No. 113.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 502.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 16, 1895, 7·45 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 496, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Armenians opened their shops to-day and resumed their business.

In the prisons and hospital which he visited this morning, Mr. Lister saw 293 Armenian prisoners; of these, 120 were in the hospital wounded. They did not complain of their treatment.

At midday over sixty of those arrested on account of the disturbances had been released: the Commission is hard at work.

No. 114.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 503.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 16, 1895, 7·55 P.M.

I HAVE received a telegram from Mr. Hampson to-day, stating that the Kurds from Kurdish Susun are again troublesome, and that in the Talori neighbourhood they are demanding tribute from the villages.

I am making fresh representations on the subject.

No. 115.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 504. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 16, 1895, 8 P.M.

THE Acting British Consul at Erzeroum telegraphs to me that if I could authorize him to hold out hopes to the Armenians that their affairs would take a favourable turn

No. 1167.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 98.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1895.

COUNT DEYM called at the Foreign Office this afternoon, having returned to England earlier than he had expected.

He had apparently been sent back by Count Goluchowski, who was much disquieted by the condition of things at Constantinople. The object, however, of his return was to some extent anticipated, because the confidential information of the close of the Armenian negotiations had at that time reached the Foreign Office.

He appeared to be apprehensive of danger from two directions.

He feared that if our negotiations did not come to a successful issue, and the Sultan was obdurate, England might take measures of a coercive character which would raise the whole Eastern question.

But he appeared also to be apprehensive that there is impending a fundamental change of opinion on the part of the allies of Austria in regard to the elements of that question. He spoke of the members of the Triple Alliance, but I thought that his language in many points was applicable only to England. He seemed to think that Austria's allies were no longer desirous of maintaining the Turkish Empire, and he appeared to have been affected by some speculations published in England pointing to the retirement of this country altogether from the Mediterranean as a field of political action.

He then spoke of the impossibility of Austria ever being a party to such a change of opinion, and urged the importance of maintaining the Turkish Empire for the longest possible period, as Austria could never tolerate the presence of Russia on the Bosphorus.

I concurred with him in this general statement of policy, which, I said, had for a long time been the policy professed and supported by England, and to which England still adhered, and I told him that there was no fear of any movement of public opinion in this country which would result in the withdrawal of the English naval forces from the Mediterranean.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

in the near future, it would enable him to encourage them to resist the pernicious counsels of the agitators, and to maintain their attitude of forbearance. He thinks this necessary, on account of continued critical state of affairs in the town and the outlying districts, and the great anxiety displayed on all sides.

Mr. Cumberbatch says that Shakir Pasha is expected in Erzeroum this evening, and that Raouf Pasha, the new Vali, arrived yesterday.

No. 116*.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 352.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1895.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 642 of the 2nd instant relative to the continued detention at Van of Erko of Shenik and other Armenian political prisoners, and their alleged ill-treatment in prison.

I approve the representations which you made to the Grand Vizier on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 116.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 505.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 17, 1895, 10:30 A.M.

IN Constantinople there is much ferment among the Mussulmans, but their animosity appears for the moment to be directed less against the Christians than the Sultan. A strong feeling is said to exist in favour of a revival of the Constitution of 1877.

The strong patrols of military render any serious outbreak here unlikely. The Revolutionary Committee issues orders to the Armenians which it enforces by threats, and by its action keeps alive the state of alarm which has existed ever since the commencement of the present disturbances. The reports which have reached the various Embassies from all parts of the Asiatic provinces show a very disturbed and critical state of affairs, which might at any moment lead to massacres of the Christians. The authorities in the provinces appear to be doing their best to maintain order, but the forces at their disposal are generally inadequate. The Ambassadors met yesterday to compare notes on the situation, when it was decided that the Dragomans of the Austrian, Russian, and British Embassies should proceed to-day to the Patriarchate, and urge the Patriarch on behalf of the six Embassies to do all that is in his power to put a stop to the dangerous action of the agitators.

The Ambassadors hope that this message will strengthen his Beatitude's hands in dealing with the agitation, as it is known that his own views are entirely against it.

At the same time, the French, German, and Italian Dragomans are to make arrangements for the disposal of the arms left by the refugees in the churches; these arms to be conveyed to the Ministry of War, and deposited there under the seal of the Embassies for the present.

No. 117.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 506.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 17, 1895, 1 P.M.

MR. LONGWORTH telegraphed to-day that the military at Trebizond regard the Consulate with suspicion, and that he is helpless. He asks if nothing can be done for people who served Consulate, who he is certain are innocent. I have telegraphed to ask if he means that Consulate servants have been arrested.

He says that no Turks but many Armenians are being arrested and tried by court-martial, and that it is thought some will be shot.

No. 118.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 507.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 17, 1895, 7·10 P.M.*

AN official intimation has just reached me that an Iradé sanctioning the reforms as settled between the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Ambassadors has been issued by the Sultan.

No. 119.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 508.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 17, 1895, 7·30 P.M.*

THE following was received to-day from the British Consul at Aleppo:—

"Revolutionary agents have ordered Armenians of Suedia who are away from their homes to come back at once to the district, in order to be ready for an outbreak."

No. 120.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 509.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 17, 1895, 11 A.M.*

THERE have been no further disturbances at Trebizond. The Russian gun-boat "Terets" arrived there on the 14th instant.

No. 121.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 184.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 18, 1895, 5·45 P.M.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 507 of the 17th instant, reporting the issue of the Sultan's Iradé which sanctions the scheme of Armenian reforms as settled between the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Ambassadors of Great Britain, France, and Russia at Constantinople.

I have to convey to you my hearty congratulations on the success obtained by your Excellency.

I should be glad to learn without delay the terms of the Imperial Iradé, or of the arrangement sanctioned by it.

No. 122.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 510.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 19, 1895, 10·45 A.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Trebizond telegraphs that only his Turkish scribe has been arrested, as he had kept his two other Armenian employés in the Consulate. I have instructed Mr. Marinitch to make representations to the Grand Vizier on this arrest of a servant of Her Majesty's Consulate, and to request his Highness to give orders that such things should not occur again.

No. 123.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 511.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 19, 1895, 11·20 A.M.*

THE messenger who left on Thursday is taking the text of the scheme of reforms requested in your Lordship's telegram No. 184.

No. 124.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 512.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 19, 1895, 11:30 A.M.*

I HAVE just received a visit from the Secretary of the Armenian Patriarch, who came to express his Beatitude's gratification at the acceptance of the reforms, and his sincere thanks for all that has been done by Her Majesty's Embassy on behalf of the Armenians. The Patriarch promises to do his utmost to induce his people to co-operate heartily with a view to securing the successful working of the scheme, and to abstain in the future from revolutionary agitation. As long as the reforms were still under discussion, he felt it his duty to press for additional guarantees, but he trusts that what has been obtained will be sufficient to secure the life and property of the Armenians.

No. 125.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 513.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 19, 1895, 11·40 A.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 165 of the 30th ultimo.

Subject to your Lordship's approval, I propose to leave for England on the 24th instant for a stay of about two weeks, now that the Sultan has accepted the reforms.

No. 126.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 514.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 20, 1895, 3·5 P.M.*

THE day before yesterday, after the Selamlik, the Sultan gave an audience to M. de Nélidoff. His Majesty seemed to be in very bad spirits. He expressed his firm determination to put into execution what he had promised, but he was afraid that the other classes of his subjects might cause him grave difficulties by their demands. He used rather bitter language about pressure which the Powers had brought to bear on him in order to make him execute laws which were already a part of Turkish legislation, and also complained of the Armenian Patriarch. He said he had proofs that his Beatitude was the prime mover of the reform agitation, and he had shown himself unworthy of his position.

The Russian Ambassador combated this view of the Patriarch's conduct.

No. 127.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 515.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 20, 1895, 7·50 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 507, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Sublime Porte has addressed me an official note inclosing a letter from the Grand Vizier to Shakir Pasha. This document communicates the reforms agreed upon between the three Embassies and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, instructs him to superintend their execution, and states that they have also been communicated to the six vilayets.

A comparison of the French and Turkish texts is now being made.

To-morrow I shall meet the Russian and French Ambassadors in order to settle the terms of our reply. We intend to address a note to the Porte in which we shall reserve our right to object to the appointment of unfit persons as Valis, and we shall take note of any other points which may seem to require it.

No. 128.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 676.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 11, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond reporting the suppression of disorder following the attempted murder of Bahri Pasha and Hamdi Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 128.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, October 5, 1895.*

MY telegrams of the 2nd and 3rd instant will have informed your Excellency of Wednesday's regrettable occurrence.

It was obviously an attempt to take away the life of Lieutenant-General Bahri Pasha, who, as ex-Vali of Van, is returning to Constantinople. When walking about 4 P.M. along the main street of the town, accompanied by the Trebizond Commandant, Hamdi Pasha, the Persian Consul-General, Rezi Khan, and the Telegraph Inspector, Hadjee Omer Effendi, a man sprang out of a narrow passage and emptied his revolver at him. He received a flesh wound on the thigh, while Hamdi Pasha had his ankle pierced by a bullet, but neither of them are much hurt. The would-be assassin, joined by a companion, made his escape, firing behind on his pursuers, and hitting thus, though slightly, an Armenian and a Turkish boy.

The dastardly assault was as daring as it was reckless of all consequences. Had it occurred at the landing-place, where the troops were under arms in honour of Bahri Pasha's departure, it would have been most assuredly followed by very serious disorders. There is, as usual in such cases, a mass of circumstantial but conflicting statements regarding this incident. I cannot therefore come to any conclusion as to who did it and why it was done. The Turks suspect the Armenians, and the Armenians suspect the Turks.

One of the two supposed men has been caught, but his friends declare that they can satisfactorily prove an *alibi*. He is an Armenian coffee-shop keeper, Armenag Gasparian by name, who for taking a prominent part in the disturbance of the 25th May was dismissed from the service of the Bishopric.

The affair, as was to be expected, caused a considerable amount of sensation and excitement, while rumours of massacres at Constantinople tended to aggravate matters. In connection with these reports, I would like here to express my thanks for your Excellency's telegram of the 3rd instant. It enabled me at least to calm the feelings of

the better classes by stating that nothing like from 2,000 to 3,000 lives had been sacrificed. The appointment of Kiamil Pasha as Grand Vizier, I may add, had also a salutary effect in my relations with the officials, known as he is to have English tendencies.

Such were the feelings when last night some men, on plunder intent, mustered large bands of armed Moslems from the neighbouring villages and commenced to attack Christian houses, breaking doors and windows, firing volleys in the streets and terrifying the peaceable inhabitants. At the same time a Turk was badly wounded by, it is alleged, two Armenians, from which the report spread that the Mahommedans were being massacred. The townsmen were then up in arms. There must have been at least 3,000 rowdies with knives, pistols, guns, and revolvers rushing frantically through the streets. It was extremely doubtful whether the 500 soldiers, aided by a small number of police and gendarmerie, could possibly make head against such a rabble. The Christians crowded into the Consulates and public buildings, and we were all on the alert awaiting an attack Three of the ringleaders, however, were happily arrested, and many were unmercifully beaten, not only by the soldiers, but by the Vali himself, and thus within two hours the crowds were made to disperse. It was with relief, therefore, that I found myself able to telegraph to your Excellency this morning that order had been restored promptly, to which I may now add that no lives were lost in the disturbance.

A Consular meeting was held in the forenoon. We met at the Austrian Consulate-General, and consulted together on the situation. It was decided that we should all drive in a body through the town to the Government House and make in person our representations to the Vali. Five carriages were engaged for the purpose. In the first were seated the Austrian and Persian Consul-Generals, in the second the Italian Consul and myself, in the third the French and Russian Consuls, in the fourth the Greek and Belgian Consuls, and in the fifth the Spanish Vice-Consul and my Dragoman. Though in plain clothes, some would like to think that our procession was as a spectacle imposing enough to calm the fears of the Christians and strike fear into the hearts of the Turks! Be this as it may, we saw Cadri Bey and expressed to him our appreciation of his own efforts, those of the civil and military authorities, and those of the Mahommedan Notabilities, all of whom by their exertions had courageously and successfully prevented a massacre of the Christians.

His Excellency related at some length the events of the night, and spoke hopefully of the future, referring to me as being fully aware of the measures taken to insure public security. He, moreover, promised to have the troops reinforced, the gendarmerie increased, the disreputable characters arrested, and the Consulates, Missions, and churches, where people take refuge, efficiently protected.

I will not lengthen out this despatch any further. It is now near midnight and the town is quiet. Nothing can be heard but the frequent tramp of the patrols, the regular beat of the watchmen, and the distant clatter of the vedettes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 129.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 679.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 14, 1895.*

ON the morning of the 11th instant, the Dragomans of the British, French, and Russian Embassies called upon the Minister of Police in order to settle various details connected with the measures to be adopted by the police for the evacuation of the churches by Armenian refugees, and to ascertain from his Excellency whether there was any truth in the report that five Armenians had been killed by Softas on the At Meidan on the 9th instant.

Nazim Pasha assured them, in reply, that these reports were entirely unfounded, and stated that most stringent orders had been issued in accordance with the instructions of the Sublime Porte, that no further arrests of Armenians should be made, and that any Armenians arrested by mistake should be at once released. This measure, adopted in consequence of the engagement entered into by the Sublime Porte, with the Representatives of the Great Powers, would, in his opinion, completely paralyze the action of the police, and he must in consequence decline to be answerable for the maintenance of public order.

It was impossible, he continued, to regard the movement of the 30th September as a

pacific demonstration, as maintained by the Armenians; it was simply a means of provoking a general rising at Constantinople, attended by massacre and bloodshed, which might necessitate the intervention of the Great Powers. Similar insurrectionary movements might be expected in the provinces of the Empire, especially in the towns of Aleppo and Adana.

His Excellency then proceeded to call attention to an article in a revolutionary paper which had appeared in New York about a fortnight before the incident of the 30th September, showing clearly the object which the Armenians had in view. The Constantinople Committee were, he said, specially active in fomenting the revolutionary spirit, and it was they who extorted money from the Armenians and obliged them to keep their shops shut. Their names were well known to the police, and might, if necessary, be communicated to the Embassies; at the same time his Excellency considered it his duty to call the attention of the Ambassadors to the necessity of devising some means to enable him to take vigorous action against them, either by bringing them to justice, or by banishing them from the Empire.

According to information which he had received, an insurrectionary movement of a far more serious nature than that of the 30th September, might shortly be expected at Constantinople if he was not allowed to take the necessary precautions for preventing it, and the situation was rendered doubly critical by the fact that these revolutionary ideas were certain, sooner or later, to penetrate to the Mussulman population, which was only too ready to receive them.

His Excellency, in conclusion, stated his opinion that no measure of reforms would satisfy the Armenians, and that even if administrative autonomy were granted to them, they would still clamour for more.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 130.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 680.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 14, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a private letter which I have received from Mr. Fontana, Acting British Consul at Angora, containing an extract from a letter he had received from the district of Yuzgat, respecting the ill-treatment of Christians at the hands of the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(Private.)
Dear Sir Philip Currie, *Angora, October 5, 1895.*

I HAVE received a long letter from Sungurlu, in the Sandjak of Yuzgat, written apparently by a well-educated man, and bearing the impress of truth, in which the local authorities' treatment of Christians, and more particularly of Armenians, is very bitterly deprecated. The letter sets forth the various administrative abuses which weigh most heavily upon the Christian population, without, however, entering into details; and although these abuses have, it is to be hoped, diminished since the removal of the late Kaïmakam, I have thought certain passages in the letter of sufficient importance for communication to your Excellency.

The writer's chief grounds of complaint are:—

1. The injustice and miserable venality of the Turkish Tribunals; any Turk can buy up the Court and as many witnesses as he chooses for 15 piastres a-head to give false evidence against a Christian.

2. The manner in which taxes are levied from the poor. No time is given them to find purchasers, when without ready money, for their stock or produce, when the taxes fall due, but their cattle, produce, furniture, and even their tools and farming implements are taken by main force, as a substitute for the sum owing, although very often of many times its value. As an instance in point the writer states that some six weeks ago five gendarmes accompanied by six soldiers of the Line, made a raid upon certain poor Armenian houses, dragging away the furniture, and even the bedding from under the sick, "leaving in one house not even a cushion."

From all that I hear, however, the Turks suffer as much as the Armenians from the heartless way in which the taxes are levied.

3. The exorbitant rate of the "Bedel Askeri," or tax for exemption from military service.

Fathers of families, however poor, are required to pay 50 piastres a-head per annum for every single child of theirs in addition to the regular tax.

4. The valuation of the "Emlak Virghin," or real property tax—often estimated at half the value of the house itself.

5. The insecurity of real property itself. As an instance the writer quotes the case of one Boghos, from Malatia, who owned a house near the Municipality at Sungurlu. The Municipality, wishing to buy the house, offered its owner 130*l*. Boghos refused, the offer being too low. The authorities then ordered him to build a high wall round it "as a measure of precaution," alleging that the municipal buildings contained fire-arms and powder. Soon after the wall was built Boghos received a summons from the local Sheri Court, charging him with occupying Vacouf property; bearing that several Turks had been engaged to swear that, within their memory, the property had been Vacouf, which evidence would have sufficed to obtain a judgment for its evacuation, Boghos at once went to the Municipality, and, by bribing certain officials, obtained 100*l*. for his house.

6. The fact of Mussulmans being encouraged to carry arms, whereas any Christian found to possess even a broken pistol, is at once fined and imprisoned.

These are the main points raised in the letter referred to, which I have thought it my duty to report unofficially to your Excellency.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) R. A. FONTANA.

No. 131.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 681.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 15, 1895.*

I HAD the honour of being received in audience by the Sultan on the 11th instant.

His Imperial Majesty expressed his gratitude for the assistance I had given, in concert with the other Ambassadors, towards the restoration of order in the capital. He went on to say that the sympathy which had been shown in England for the Armenians has had the effect of encouraging them in acts of violence, and complained bitterly of the attacks made upon him in the English press.

I replied that I could not assume any responsibility for articles which appeared in the newspapers, but that His Majesty might rest assured that Her Majesty's Government had never encouraged acts of violence, and that their interference in the Armenian question had been solely directed to obtaining an amelioration of the condition of the Armenians in the Asiatic provinces. It was, I said, the ardent desire of Her Majesty's Government that the question of reforms should be brought to a speedy conclusion, with the view of putting an end to the existing state of tension and uneasiness.

The French and Russian Ambassadors had, as well as myself, been authorized to make certain proposals for the final settlement of the question to the Imperial Government, and we had invited the Minister for Foreign Affairs to confer with us. I trusted that His Imperial Majesty would authorize Said Pasha to deal with the question.

His Majesty replied that he had no objection to such a course, but that he wished me first to see Marshal Zeki Pasha, who had already called upon me twice in the course of last week, and who enjoyed the full confidence of His Majesty.

I replied that I should, of course, be very happy to receive any one whom His Majesty might send to me, but that, in the matter of reforms, I was acting in accord with my colleagues, and that I could not, therefore, discuss them separately.

His Majesty said that the communications with which Zeki Pasha would be charged were of a private and confidential nature.

I again repeated that Her Majesty's Government attached the greatest importance to the settlement of the reform question; that, in view of the strong pressure of public opinion, they could not consent to any further postponement of it; and that I felt sure that until it was brought to a conclusion they would be unwilling to discuss any other question.

I urged especially the importance of the publication of the reforms as a means not only of satisfying public opinion in Europe, but also of calming the agitation among the Armenians themselves.

I assured His Majesty that in insisting, as they felt bound to do, on a prompt compliance with the recommendations of the three Governments, Her Majesty's Government had no hostile feeling towards His Majesty or his Mussulman subjects; on the contrary, they believed that a reform in the administration of the Asiatic provinces was essential to the very existence of the Empire, and they desired that these reforms should be carried out in such a manner as not to wound the susceptibilities of the Moslem population.

His Majesty avoided giving any definite reply to my observations, but repeated his wish that I should see Zeki Pasha, who would call upon me on the following day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 132.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 682.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 16, 1895.*

I HAVE received from the Italian Embassy the inclosed translation of a Turkish Proclamation recently posted up by Mussulmans in Constantinople.

I hear that a Turkish lawyer named Ajem Izzet, who is one of the leaders of the "Jeune Turquie" party, has been arrested as the author of this document. It is asserted that he refused to answer any questions, and said that the authorities might put him to death, but that others "would spring up like mushrooms to follow his example," and that the day for suppressing all expression of Mussulman opinion had gone by.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Turkish Proclamation posted up by Mussulmans in Constantinople.

(Translation.)
Citoyens,

LE mouvement égoïste des Arméniens, et la part qu'ils ont prise dans les massacres de plusieurs malheureux nous ont profondément affligés. Il est évident que la situation actuelle est la conséquence des maux de l'Administration présente.

Le Sultan Hamid, pour cacher ses fautes, veut montrer coupables et fautifs les Musulmans devant le monde civilisé. Le temps est venu d'obtenir nos droits légitimes que la législation Mahométane et la Constitution qui nous a été octroyée nous donnent pour la sauvegarde de notre honneur et de notre vie. En avant! En nous donnant la main donnons une plus grande extension à notre union et à notre accord. Effaçons la tâche infligée par l'Administration tyrannique sur l'Islam Ottoman.

En agissant contre le despotisme reprenons nos droits positifs, ne nous laissons pas tromper par des manifestations mensongères. Se repentir de la dernière heure ne nous donnera aucun profit, car nous serons anéantis.

(L'Association Ottomane d'Union et de Progrès.)

No. 133.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 683.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 16, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of a Memorandum which I have received from Mr. Shipley, submitting observations on the Joint Report of the Delegates to the Sasun Commission of Inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 133.

Memorandum on the Joint Report of the Consular Delegates to the Sasun Commission of July 20, 1895.

THE first point in the above Report to which I would beg to draw your Excellency's attention is the number of victims during the events in Sasun of last year; and, with reference to this, I may at once say that a very short consideration of the facts will show that the estimates of Armenian losses published from time to time in the English and Continental press, and which vary from 5,000 to 10,000, are altogether beyond the mark. In saying this I am, of course, aware that it was stated by myself and my colleagues, MM. Vilbert and Prjevalsky, in the Report in question that the inquiry, particularly as regards the events in the Talori region proper, was carried out by the Turkish Commissioners in a wholly inadequate manner, and that it was impossible for us, for reasons which we entered into at some length, to fix even approximately the number of victims. If this was the case as regards Shenik, Semal, and Ghéliéguzan, districts which, in company with the Commission, we visited in person, the above observation will, of course, be much more applicable to the Talori region, which we had no opportunity of visiting, and from which only four witnesses independently of the ten prisoners were examined before the Commission.

Nevertheless, since the visit of Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson to Talori and Kavar, it has become possible at least to calculate with a reasonable amount of certainty the population of those districts from which an idea, even if remote, of Armenian losses may be obtained. Mr. Hampson, it must be remembered, was for some time in the districts referred to; he had every opportunity of coming into direct contact with the Talori population, and was consequently able to control personally the information supplied to him. I therefore regard his Report as forming a most valuable supplement to that drawn up by ourselves.

Briefly speaking, the number of Talori parishes or wards which he gives from personal observation as having been totally destroyed in the events of last year amounts to thirteen, in addition to the villages of Ishentzur, Enguznak, Sevid, Spaguk Ergart, Helink, and finally, the greater part of Agpi. These, in addition to Shenik, Semal, and Ghéliéguzan, with its dependencies, such as Alian, make up a total of some twenty-four villages so destroyed. Mr. Hampson, it will be seen, gives the number of houses in the thirteen wards of Talori as 455 (an estimate which appears to me to be somewhat high taking into consideration the numbers given by certain of the Armenians before the Commission), which, allowing 10 as the average number of persons to each house, would give a population for Talori itself of some 4,500. The population of the remaining eleven villages, judging from Shenik and Semal, which I inspected personally (Ghéliéguzan is larger and would contain probably from 800 to 1,000 inhabitants), I should put down at between

were separated from the men, and how the latter on the second night of their arrival were put to death, their cries and groans reaching the women, who themselves had been outraged by the soldiers and zaptiehs, will be found in detail in the Protocols of the proceedings of the Commission, and I do not propose to go into it here.

I feel it my duty, however, to observe that, though the fact of the inhuman slaughter is undoubted, all the evidence, both before the Commission and that taken by us privately, tended to prove conclusively that the number of men so put to death did not exceed forty, or, at most, fifty; the statements made by certain Turkish soldiers and others at Erzeroum, that the slaughter went on for several days, and that some 300 or 400 Armenians in this way met their death, being, I believe, an exaggeration. There is no record of any other Armenians beyond those above referred to having come to the camp to give themselves up, and the evidence of the only four Christian muleteers who were with the troops at Ghéliéguzan, and whose depositions will be found annexed to the Protocols, is, I believe, conclusive on this point. Three of these muleteers, in fact, were unanimous in stating that they saw no other men beyond the forty above alluded to come to the camp, and, further, that the troops after the massacre remained some two days only at Ghéliéguzan. The testimony of the women, moreover, who accompanied the victims bears out in this respect the statements of the muleteers. On the other hand, the story of the torture of the priest Ohannes, viz., by having his eyes put out and being otherwise barbarously treated, has, I believe, a foundation in fact. It is true that no one, if I except Ovak, produced before the Commission, professed to have been an eye-witness of the torture of the priest, but many Armenians, both before the Commission and in private examination, declared that, on visiting the camp shortly after the departure of the soldiers, they identified the body of the priest in question bearing marks of the outrage referred to. It is, moreover, significant that, though the Turkish Commissioners cast doubt on the statement of Ovak, they declined to accede to our suggestion to examine his brother, who affirmed that he had likewise succeeded in escaping from the massacre, and whom we ourselves saw with a wound in his back, indisputably the effect of a bayonet-thrust.

On the other hand, I have considerable doubts as to the truth of the story, which rests on the authority of the Turkish muleteer Ali Gulanen Oghlou, that Colonel Tewfik Bey and the Sheikh of Zilan had caused, while in the camp at Ghéliéguzan, an Armenian, named Shero, to be flayed alive, and into which, in accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I made special inquiries. Ali Gulanen Oghlou himself was not examined, the Turkish Commissioners declining to do so on a pretext mainly technical, but no allusion whatever was made to such an incident by any of the Armenians who came before the Commission, nor was it known to any of the numerous Armenians whom I questioned on the matter, or to the Christian muleteers with the troops, though these latter could hardly fail to have heard of it from Ali Gulanen Oghlou himself had it really taken place. The Shero referred to by the latter is, I may mention, now alive at Ghéliéguzan.

Although, therefore, as I have endeavoured to show above, the Turkish soldiers cannot be convicted of the sensationally exaggerated stories of massacre attributed to them in certain of the English newspapers, I do not think, seeing as I did, in company with my colleagues, the entire ruin of a whole district, not a house being left standing, the fields even having been wantonly devastated, as well as the abject misery and destitution to which these Armenians have been reduced, that the epithets applied to the conduct of the Turkish soldiers and Kurds by the same press are in any way too strong. We have in our Report given it as our conviction, arrived at from the evidence brought before us, that the Armenians were massacred without distinction of age or sex, and, indeed, for a period of some three weeks, viz., from the 12th August to the 4th September (o.s.), it is not too much to say that the Armenians were absolutely hunted like wild beasts, being killed wherever they were met, and if the slaughter was not greater it was, I believe, solely owing to the vastness of the mountain ranges of that district which enabled the people to scatter, and so facilitated their escape. In fact, and speaking with a full sense of responsibility, I am compelled to say that the conviction has forced itself on me that it was not so much the capture of the agitator Mourad, or the suppression of a pseudo-revolt, which was desired by the Turkish authorities, as the extermination, pure and simple, of the Ghéliéguzan and Talori districts. In support of this statement I would point, in addition, to the useless and wanton ruin of the district already alluded to—first, to the conduct of Captain Hadji Mustapha, which, indeed, in our

5,000 and 6,000, or a total of some 10,000 in all. As some 6,000 or 7,000 of these Armenians have been reported to have returned to their ruined villages, the exaggeration indulged in as to the number of victims becomes evident. Mr. Hampson, it will further be noticed, after careful inquiry among the population, puts the number of victims at from twenty to sixty per village, adding that from Hetink the greater number succeeded in escaping, only some eighteen having been killed. Taking, therefore, forty for each of the twenty-three villages destroyed as an average, the total number of victims, including of course those who perished from want or exposure, would amount to some 900 in all.

This estimate, which tallies fairly well with the list of losses given in Chapter IV of the Annex to our Report, is certainly nearer the truth than the estimates of 10,000 or even 5,000 alluded to. It is true that a perusal of the list given by us, and which is concerned more particularly with Ghéliéguzan, Semal, and Shenik, would lead one to infer that the losses of the Armenians would, if the same proportion were maintained for the other villages, be even greater than 900, but it must be borne in mind that many of the persons (especially in the case of Shenik) given as dead were afterwards shown to be alive, and that all the three above villages, sustaining, as they did, a prolonged combat first with the Kurds and then with the soldiers, suffered, there is every reason to suppose, greater losses proportionately than the others. I beg, however, to repeat once more that all estimates of the total of Armenian losses can scarcely even be approximate, but are little better than mere guesses, the method of inquiry which the Turkish Commissioners thought fit to adopt—trivial questions such as an alleged theft by a band of Armenians of two oxen belonging to a Kurd being minutely gone into—effectually preventing the full and true facts of the case from being arrived at.

Turning to the consideration of the stories of wholesale butchery of the Armenians by the Turkish soldiers (I refer more particularly to the accounts given of the slaughter of some 250 women in the church at Ghéliéguzan, and of a similar number in the convent of Surp Merapa, in the Talori district), I find, with the exception of the putting to death of the prisoners in the camp at Ghéliéguzan, referred to at some detail in our Report, no confirmation at all, either in the evidence of the Armenians produced before the Commission or from the special inquiries which I myself made, and caused to be made, into the stories in question.

As regards the first one, viz., the slaughter of the women in the church at Ghéliéguzan, with the exception of the prisoner Attam, who only gave it at second hand, such an incident was not even alluded to by any of the inhabitants of the latter village or by any of the women who accompanied the prisoners to the camp; and it is impossible to believe that had such a butchery really taken place it would not have been referred to by at least one or more of the Armenians with whom we came into contact. Similarly, with regard to the alleged slaughter of the women at the convent of Surp Merapa, in Talori, resting, I believe, principally on the evidence given at Erzeroum of the Armenian Giragos, of Hartk, according to which the blood of the murdered women ran under the doors of the church, not one of the Armenians whom I questioned could give any information respecting it. Several of them had visited the church referred to almost immediately after the events, but although all agreed that it had been sacked and destroyed, not one of them made any allusion to any traces of slaughter having taken place there. While, therefore, I am compelled to look on these and similar stories as enormously exaggerated, if not, as in certain instances I believe to be the case, absolutely invented for the wholly unnecessary purpose of adding to the very real horror of the Sasun affair, an impartial review of the evidence taken before the Commission leaves no doubt that in certain ravines of the Antok Mountain, such as Ghéliésan (where Mr. Hampson was still able to see human remains), Ghélié Hengevi, and Ghéliérah, in which parties of the fugitive villagers had endeavoured to hide themselves, they were set upon by the soldiers, zaptiehs, and Kurds and massacred with savage brutality, without distinction of age or sex. One of the worst cases of such cold-blooded cruelty was the murder of the prisoners in the camp at Ghéliéguzan already alluded to.

As regards this incident, it was stated by Armenians before the Commission, and, I believe, with truth, that a safe-conduct was promised to them if they would give themselves up, and it was therefore on the strength of that promise that certain of their number went down to the camp from the mountain. The story how some 300 men, women, and children gathered together under the leadership of the priest Ohannes, how they went down to the camp, how the women and children

Report, we have not failed to sharply criticize; and, secondly, to that of Colonel Tewfik Bey, in command of the detachment sent to Ghéliéguzan and Talori. The first-named officer, sent in the early summer to the vicinity of Shenik to maintain order, certainly allowed, if he did not participate, in the destruction of that village and Semal by the Kurds, for his statement that he knew nothing of a combat going on at only half-an-hour's distance from him may be dismissed as a simple untruth. It is, perhaps, possible that Captain Hadji Mustapha himself, acting under orders, did not take a part in the first fighting, but we know, though the fact was not allowed to transpire before the Commission, that his two companies were reinforced by a battalion sent from Moush on the 3rd August (o.s.), or some ten days before the detachment under Colonel Tewfik Bey. What this battalion did we had no means of ascertaining, but bearing in mind the almost universal assertion of the Armenians that there were soldiers helping the Kurds, it is not unreasonable to suppose that these soldiers were soldiers belonging to the battalion in question.

As regards Colonel Tewfik Bey, apart from his conduct at the camp at Ghéliéguzan, I can only say that any one, after reading the evidence given by him, is forced to the conclusion that the only explanation of the entire absence of plan or method shown by him in conducting the operations, even from a military point of view, is that the capture of Mourad was entirely secondary, and that his real objective was to burn and destroy whatever might have been left by the Kurds. Colonel Tewfik Bey's so-called plan for capturing Mourad was most ably criticized by my Russian colleague, himself formerly a military man, who thoroughly exposed its futility, and I refer to the Protocol (No. 86) of the proceedings at which the Colonel was examined, for further details.

Passing to the question of acts of individual atrocity committed by the soldiers, zaptiehs, and Kurds, of which the Protocols contain enough and to spare, I do not propose to dwell on these, as a list of the Armenian victims has been given in Chapter IV of the Annex to our Report previously referred to. I will, however, give one case which was related to me by the mother of the victim. Briefly, it was this: she herself, with her husband, husband's brother, two little children, and an infant in the cradle, fled from Alian (their village) to the Antok Mountain at the first approach of the Kurds and soldiers. After passing a few days on the Antok they descended to a brook for water. While there her husband came running to her, calling out to her to fly, as the soldiers were coming. She caught up the two children, leaving the infant, and fled. Her husband and husband's brother were killed, and she herself, descending again some little time afterwards, found the child with its head beaten in. I purposely asked the woman why she had abandoned the infant, seeing that she had carried it in the first instance from her house, and received the passionate answer, "How could I take it? I had a child in each arm already." This is, unfortunately, but one out of many such cases. In another it was a woman who saw her own child's throat cut before her eyes. It may be said that those and similar stories rest on the evidence of Armenians alone; but, in answer to this, I would point to the fact that no proof whatever was adduced by the Turkish Commissioners (beyond a mere denial of the parties interested) to show that these stories were inventions of the Armenians, while the fact that no explanation was forthcoming of the existence of a district entirely ruined, and the inhabitants reduced to beggary, is undeniable. The explanation attempted, viz., that it was the Armenians themselves who set fire to their own houses in order the better to prepare for the revolution to follow, supported as it was by no evidence worthy of the name, was not considered by us as meriting serious consideration, and was, in fact, I consider, an impudent attempt, whether on the part of the Kurds or Turks, to impose on our credulity.

The case which it was sought to establish before the Commission against the Armenians — that the latter were in open revolt, and were committing outrages on the neighbouring Kurdish population, has been sufficiently dealt with in Chapter II of the Annex to our Report, and I do not therefore propose to discuss it in the present Memorandum. I would, however, remark that all the cases of outrage that the Commissioners could produce were some twenty-four in number, and of these the authenticated cases were finally reduced to some half-dozen, a very slight cause on which to found such terrible reprisals. But, I venture to repeat again, the real cause of the sending of troops in 1894, and consequent destruction of the Talori and Ghéliéguzan regions, was not the pseudo-revolt of the Armenians or the pretended outrages against the surrounding Kurdish population, but lay in the fact that the Turkish authorities were unable to brook the feeling of indepen-

dence which had survived among the Armenians of that district, especially among those of Talori, and had for some time past determined to make an example of them.

In connection with the question of this pretended revolt of Armenians, and of outrages by them on the Kurds in 1894, the fact cannot be too strongly dwelt upon that, as regards the Armenians of Talori at any rate, the latter had already in 1893 been ruined by the wanton and unprovoked attack upon them in that year by a combined Kurdish force to the number of some 3,000 or 4,000. The full truth in connection with this attack, details concerning which were given by several Armenian witnesses before the Commission, was never elucidated by us, our persistent efforts in that direction being as steadily opposed by the Turkish Commissioners. Into the question whether this attack was, as the Armenians of that district universally assert, the result of the direct action of the Turkish authorities themselves, who deliberately instigated the Kurds, I do not propose to enter, the proofs being, I admit, of too scanty a nature to enable a definite statement to be made. All that can be said is that from the inquiries I made it would seem very certain that shortly before the attack in question took place the Mutessarif of Ghendj had put himself in communication with the notorious Sheikh of Zilan and certain other Kurdish Chiefs. But—and this is the fact which I think should be insisted upon—the Turkish authorities, whether they instigated the above attack or not, were responsible for it; it took place with their knowledge and consent, as is shown by the fact that the soldiers sent nominally to keep order sided with the Kurds, and so contributed to the ruin of the Talori Armenians to which I have referred above. These facts would, of course, not necessarily disprove the Turkish contention as to Armenian rebellion and acts of outrage in the year 1894, but it will, I think, be admitted that they merit serious attention in dealing with the events of that year, as also with the relations of the Turkish Government towards both Armenians and Kurds, upon which they throw considerable light.

In conclusion, I would beg to say that I have no wish to be thought unduly partial to the Armenians, and I feel it therefore my duty to point to the fact that an agitation subversive of the authority of the Ottoman Government has been carried on, not for one or two, but for several years past among the Armenians of the Moush and Talori regions by the Armenian Committees abroad, whose latest agent was Mourad, and that it was the knowledge of their failure to successfully cope with this movement which ended by exasperating the Turkish authorities. But even this admission has to be qualified by the fact that in its first duty, viz., that of affording protection to all classes of its subjects alike, the Turkish Government has entirely failed. It was, for instance, during the proceedings of the Commission, made a reproach to the Armenians of Talori that for twenty years past they had paid no taxes to the Government. But the Armenians, on the other hand, replied that they could not pay taxes to two masters, *i.e.*, to the Government and the Kurds, and their statement that, if they had not paid to these Kurds, the latter would have burnt their houses and stolen their cattle, was certainly not disproved by any evidence produced before the Commission. As no attempt, as far as I could discover, was ever made by the Turkish Government to keep these Kurdish neighbours of the Armenians in order, the latter in self-defence were obliged to come to terms with them, and it is a significant fact that in the attack of 1893—the first one—of which I have spoken above, the Belekli Kurds, to whom these Talori Armenians more particularly paid tribute, refused to take any part.

As regards the Armenians of the Moush Plain, their condition has been even worse, for, as I had ample opportunities of observing, they are exposed both to the exactions of the Kurds and the rapacity of Government officials. It is impossible to expect, under conditions such as I have described, that the Armenians could rest contented, or that they would not furnish a likely field for political agitators.

In conclusion, I would beg to say with reference to the conduct of the inquiry by the Turkish Commissioners that I have grave doubts as to whether in the case of many of the witnesses on the Government side their story had not been concocted beforehand. We have commented in several of our Reports on the fact that many of these witnesses repeated the same story absolutely word for word, professing, at the same time, their entire ignorance of anything else than the story they had come to tell, and we had abundant evidence of the fact that in no case, where possible, was an Armenian allowed to come before the Commission without having been first examined by the Mutessarif or some other of the Moush local officials. In one case, viz., that of the Archimandrite Egishé, who came to the Commission with the

intention of retracting certain evidence which he had previously given against the Armenians, we had direct proof that after an interview with the Commissioner he deemed it more prudent to leave Moush without giving effect to his purpose. I cannot but feel, moreover, that the action of the Commissioners in establishing at the very commencement of the proceedings two categories for persons giving evidence, one, namely, being called "witnesses," and the other "suspects," the latter including practically all Armenians, was not calculated to advance the interests of truth, for not only did it tend to deter Armenians from coming forward to state their case, but assumed as proved a revolt into the existence or non-existence of which they had come to inquire. If I have dwelt at some length on this last question, it is because I feel it is only due to myself and colleagues to explain more fully than was possible in our Report the reasons why our efforts to arrive at the truth did not meet with a larger share of success.

(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

Therapia, October 12, 1895.'

No. 134.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 684.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 16, 1895.

ON the 8th instant I received a telegram from Her Majesty's Consulate in Constantinople stating that the Armenian ecclesiastical authorities of Pera begged for my intervention in consequence of the police having blockaded their church, in which about 2,000 persons had taken refuge, and that no food was allowed to enter.

I at once consulted my Austrian colleague (as Doyen of the Corps Diplomatique) and M. Nélidoff. They had received no information themselves, but they agreed that the matter was serious, and that united action on the part of all the Embassies was desirable.

This opinion being fully shared by our other colleagues, a telegram signed by the five Ambassadors and the Italian Chargé d'Affaires was dispatched without delay to the Minister of Foreign Affairs tendering our good offices for the solution of the difficulty. His Excellency replied next day denying that the entry of food into the churches had been forbidden, but accepting our offer of intervention.

Said Pasha met the Ambassadors at the French Embassy the same afternoon, and gave us his word, in the name of the Turkish Government, that if the refugees would lay down their arms they would be allowed to return freely to their homes, and not be arrested or molested. It was agreed that the Dragomans of the six Embassies should visit the Armenian churches in Pera and other quarters where refugees were collected, and should communicate to them the above assurances, and urge them to leave.

I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum by Mr. Marinitch, reporting how the Dragomans accomplished their mission.

The successful and unanimous action of the Embassies in a matter which was causing serious uneasiness both to the authorities and to the Christian population has produced a salutary effect, and cannot fail to increase the influence which the united action of the Representatives of the Great Powers is capable of exerting.

I have already reported to your Lordship that the Sultan expressed his gratitude for the assistance rendered to his Government both personally and through the Foreign Minister, and I have now the honour to inclose a copy of a letter of thanks which my colleagues and I have received from the Armenian Patriarch.

The Dragomans appear to have discharged their task with much tact and skill. Mr. Marinitch especially deserves great credit for his share in quieting the fears of the refugees. He was chosen to address the people in the church of Pera as the mouthpiece of his colleagues, and I am assured by impartial persons that it was greatly owing to his clear and forcible language that confidence was restored, and that the Armenians were induced to depart quietly to their homes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 134.

Memorandum by Mr. Marinitch.

(Confidential.)

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions, herewith returned, I undertook on Thursday last, with my colleagues of the Embassies of the Great Powers, the difficult task of persuading the Armenians to leave the churches, where they had taken refuge, to return to their houses.

We met first at the British Embassy in Pera in order to ascertain whether the police authorities had received their instructions to afford the necessary assistance to us in carrying out the task intrusted to us, and whether the members of the Ephoria were to be found at the church of Pera, which was to be visited first.

When this was done we proceeded to the said church and communicated to the Ephors the object of our mission. These gentlemen at once placed themselves in communication with some of the refugees, and it was agreed that we should go to the church, where the Bishop would speak to the people who had gathered there.

In view of the fact that the speech made by this Prelate had no great effect upon the people, I was requested to address them, and I did so. Thereupon some thirty women and children began to leave the church. One of the refugees, however, who had left and run after them, succeeded in inducing them to return. Great confusion then arose, most of the refugees refusing to leave the church, stating that they were afraid to return to their dwellings. I was again requested to address the people, who had now assembled in the churchyard, but my words were not heard owing to the cries of the people, who, as far as I have been able to learn, were listening to the bad advice given by certain of the refugees, who, fearing apparently to be looked upon as ringleaders, and seized by the police, were endeavouring to prevent the others from leaving the church.

We thereupon retired into a room with the Ephors and the Bishop, in order to consider what was to be done in face of the refusal of the refugees to quit the church. The Ephors advised us not to insist for the present, so as to give the ignorant people time to talk over the real object of our visit. M. Maximoff, the Russian Dragoman, requested the Ephors to give the people clearly to understand the serious consequences as regards themselves which would ensue if they lost such an opportunity of leaving the church under the assurances given by the Porte to the Great Powers that none of them would be arrested or molested.

We then left the church at Pera and proceeded to the Cathedral of Koum Kapou, where the Patriarch on learning our arrival requested us to wait upon his Beatitude, which we did accordingly.

M. Maximoff explained to Mgr. Ismirlian the object of our mission and the unsuccessful result of the steps taken by us at the Pera church. His Beatitude expressed his deepest regret and offered to use his best efforts in order to enable us to carry out successfully our instructions.

Thereupon we entered the Cathedral of Koum Kapou and set to work without loss of time. We addressed the people and found that they made no opposition to returning to their homes. Several of the refugees were conversant with the Russian idiom which led us to believe that they were Armenians of Russian origin and most of them, we found, were wearing caps instead of the Turkish fez. They then began to return to their homes leaving their arms in the custody of the clergy. Those who, fearing to be looked upon as rioters by the police, were reluctant to leave the church, we supplied with a kind of "sauf-conduit." Within two hours we succeeded in clearing the church of its inmates, and according to the list drawn up 450 men and women actually returned to their homes.

We then returned to the Pera church and found that our advice had not proved altogether useless, as 400 men and women had left the church in question for their homes. But as it was too late for the others to gain their dwellings in safety, we caused them to remain where they were for that night, promising to come back the following day to resume our work. Having done this we left for Therapia.

The next day, Friday, we reached the church at Pera at 9 o'clock in the morning, and having at once resumed proceedings succeeded within five hours in inducing all the refugees to leave the church, not, however, without fresh difficulties created by certain individuals who may be looked upon as the instigators of the recent events. Those who still hesitated to leave we supplied with a sort of "sauf-conduit." All arms were left in

the church. The total number of the men and women who thus returned to their homes amounted to 1,150, among them being persons belonging to various classes of the community.

Thence we proceeded to the Galata church. Here the evacuation began without any serious difficulty after the Armenian priest had made the people clearly understand the object of our mission. The Armenians who had gathered in this church were of the lower class, and it was evident that most of them had gone there merely to escape ill-treatment.

Here we gave very few "sauf-conduits." Their arms remained in the church. We further discovered two flags made with black paper, which were hanging in the form of a cross on the wall of the staircase, and over the chair of the President of the Council, bearing the following inscription: "Vivent les dévoués Hintchakistes!" These flags were removed at our request.

Within two-and-a-half hours we succeeded in inducing the refugees, to the number of 550, men and women, to return to their homes.

Meanwhile, M. Bay, of the French Embassy, who, acting under our instructions, had proceeded to the church at Hasskeui to see how matters stood there, returned and reported that he had induced the remaining refugees, to the number of 164, to return to their homes, no arms apparently having been found upon them, and very few "sauf-conduits" having been given to them.

We then left for the church at Scutari, where the refugees, amounting to some fifty-five persons, were easily persuaded to return to their houses. Only a few women and children, living in an exclusively Mussulman quarter, refused to go out. But it was agreed between us and the representative of the Patriarchate that they should be provided on the day following with other dwellings and removed there.

We did not visit the Pancaldi church as the Patriarch Azarian had, on Friday morning, informed the Dragoman of the French Embassy that the refugees there, amounting to forty-five, had returned to their homes.

I beg to subjoin certain of the conditions demanded by some of the refugees in the Péra church before consenting to leave, which, however, we refused to take into consideration.

According to our information only 12 per cent. of the refugees were found with arms in their possession. The cavasses of the Embassies did not, of course, allow anybody to leave the churches without first carefully searching them for their arms which, we ascertained, were not of one pattern, as asserted by the Turkish authorities.

Lists of the refugees were drawn up, and will be forwarded to the respective Embassies.

The emblems of mourning which were hanging on the doors of the several churches were at once removed by our orders.

I may add that, from what I observed, the greater part of the refugees, both men and women, were resolved to resist and die if efforts had been made by the Turkish authorities to compel them to leave the churches by force.

Before concluding, I think it my duty to mention that the police officials who were placed at our entire disposal afforded to us unhesitatingly their whole support.

(Signed) H. MARINITCH.

October 12, 1895.

Inclosure 2 in No. 134.

The Armenian Patriarch to Sir P. Currie.

[*Undated.*]

M. l'Ambassadeur,

GRACE aux bons offices et aux bienveillantes assurances de leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs des six Grandes Puissances Européennes, les malheureux réfugiés dans certaines églises, à la suite des horribles événements de ces jours derniers, viennent de quitter leurs asiles et de se disperser avec le calme et la tranquillité désirables. C'est un devoir sacré et bien doux à notre cœur de vous exprimer notre très profonde gratitude aussi bien pour votre généreuse intervention, qui a eu pour effet d'écarter un grave péril imminent, que pour sentiments de sympathie personnelle prodigués par vous à notre égard dans les douloureuses conjonctures que nous traversons. Nous exprimons également nos vifs remercîments à MM. les Drogmans attachés à votre Ambassade qui ont su accomplir avec un tact si appréciable, la délicate mission de rassurer une population affolée par la peur et le désespoir.

Permettez-nous d'ajouter, Excellence, que nous avons trop de foi dans votre sagacité pour oser vous implorer que vous veuillez bien continuer vos nobles soins, afin que des mesures efficaces soient adoptées sans autre délai à l'effet de mettre fin à la situation menaçante actuelle, de prévenir le retour de tueries d'innocents, de faire cesser les excès commis dans les prisons, d'empêcher, enfin, que les tristes faits qui viennent de se dérouler sous nos yeux ne puissent avoir leur contre-coup dans les provinces, qui serait terrible.

No. 135.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 685.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 16, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 681 of yesterday, I have the honour to state that Marshal Zeki Pasha called upon me by order of the Sultan on the 12th instant.

He said that His Majesty was desirous of restoring the friendly and intimate relations which formerly existed between Turkey and England, and that, with this view, he wished to make a special appeal to me as British Representative for my assistance in the present juncture of affairs. In my conversation with His Majesty on the previous day, I had mentioned that Her Majesty's Government would insist on certain reforms in addition to those which had already been conceded by His Majesty. The Sultan could not understand the object which England had in view, more especially as he understood that the Russian Government had expressed themselves as satisfied with the reforms already granted. His Excellency was instructed to represent the danger of offending his Mussulman subjects, to which the Sultan would be exposed by making concessions to the Armenians.

I replied that Her Majesty's Government were acting in accord with the Governments of France and Russia, who had sent instructions to their Representatives here identical with those I had received. The additional concessions that we should ask for were few in number, and involved no question of principle. I added that Her Majesty's Government did not demand anything that would be repugnant to the feelings of the Mussulman population, for I could not suppose that the admission of the Christians to public employment in proportion to their numbers, which was already sanctioned in theory by existing laws, could have any such effect. For my own part, I could promise that nothing should be inserted in the Act embodying the reforms which could justly offend Moslem susceptibilities.

Zeki Pasha asked me to give him a list of our demands, but I declined to do this on the ground that, as I was acting in concert with the Ambassadors of France and Russia, I should not be justified in anticipating the communication that we should jointly make to the Foreign Minister as soon as he was authorized to call upon us.

Zeki Pasha having again pressed me to give some assurances that would reassure the Sultan, I repeated that the only safe course for His Majesty to pursue was to promulgate the reforms with the least possible delay. Public opinion in England was pressing for strong measures, and was calling upon Her Majesty's Government to make use of the fleet to enforce the demands of England. It was my earnest wish that the Sultan should be saved from the dangers that threatened him and his Empire, but I feared that this would be impossible if His Majesty did not give his consent to a prompt settlement of the question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 136.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 687.)

Therapia, October 17, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo respecting the political situation at Aintab and Djibbin.

I am bringing the various abuses reported as existing in the administration of that district to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 136.

Consul Burnham to Sir P. Currie.

Aleppo, October 4, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the favour of your Excellency's perusal, copy of a letter which I have received from the Rev. M. G. Papazian, Protestant Minister at Aintab, and Professor H. Krikorian, of Aintab College, reviewing the various abuses which exist in the administration of that part of the Aleppo Vilayet.

Dr. Fuller, the President of Aintab College, in transmitting this letter, remarks: "I believe it to be a correct and very moderate statement of facts."

The incidents related are repeated all over the Empire, but in drawing your Excellency's attention specially to the concluding paragraph, I would say that I have had much corroborative evidence lately that the situation in Aintab is extremely critical, and in Marash.

Aghassé, the leader of the Hunchagists, has been in Aintab since the month of August, and a very large number of Armenians have in consequence joined the revolutionary party.

The professors of Aintab College have had the greatest difficulty in preventing the college boys from taking part in the movement, and have aided the American missionaries in their constant endeavour to discourage it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 136.

The Rev. M. Papazian and Professor Krikorian to Consul Barnham.

Aintab, October 1, 1895.

Sir,

THE special efforts which we understand are now being made to secure reforms in the administration of the Government in this land seem to make it proper for us, through you, to solicit the attention of the British Government to the following facts, of the entire accuracy of which we are prepared to furnish the most indubitable proofs, and which are only a small part of a large number of similar facts which might be easily collated.

1. The Aleppo Vilayet is believed to contain approximately 100,000 Christians and 500,000 Moslems.

These Christians are found chiefly in the regions about Marash, Zeitoun, Urfa, Aintab, and Antioch, and their general condition is that of great and increasing poverty and oppression. This is specially true with regard to the mountain villages about Marash and Zeitoun, and also with regard to Jibbin, a village some fourteen hours north-east of Aintab. It will not be denied that the general policy of the Government

in all this region has been, and is still, to enforce the largest possible and most unrelenting exaction of taxes, with very little regard for, or protection of, individual rights, and almost no attempt to alleviate or improve the general situation.

While such a policy is to the last degree irksome and oppressive to the whole population, there are also many cases in which special discrimination is made against Christians, and under which their hardships are particularly great.

Specifications.

1. In Aintab an annual tax for roads has been assessed and collected for more than twenty years. During the past nine years the people of Aintab have paid the Government under this head more than 1,500 Turkish liras, and to-day the city has no made roads connecting it with any other place, and work to this end has been even attempted on no more than 6 miles near to Aintab, where the roads were already comparatively good.

2. For the past ten years 2,000 liras a-year has been collected by the Government from Aintab for the schools of any sort; and such as are maintained are practically of no benefit to Christians.

3. In the collection of the tithes the greatest abuses are commonly practised. Instead of one-tenth not infrequently a fourth and even a-half of the income is taken, and in some cases more than three-fourths have been seized.

4. Christians arrested on suspicion of political plottings have been threatened and irregularly muleted sometimes to the amount of 100 or 500 liras in a single case.

5. In Imadjak, a Christian village seven hours from Marash, the regulations imposed with regard to cutting and selling lumber have been such as practically to ruin this chief industry of the village and reduce the people to the last extremity of poverty.

6. In Jibbin, for the murder of one Moslem killed in a quarrel in which the two parties were about equally to blame, and in which Moslems had at least equal responsibility with Christians, twenty-seven Christians were imprisoned, of whom twenty were in prison eleven months, two died in prison, and four were finally convicted and condemned to fifteen years' imprisonment each, and not a Moslem has been in any way punished.

7. It is increasingly difficult, and now nearly impossible for Christians to secure permission for the establishment of schools, or for the erection of school or church buildings, and in some cases schools and churches have been arbitrarily closed.

8. Insult, abuse, violence, and threatening of Moslems against Christians has greatly increased of late, and all attempts to secure the adequate punishment of Moslem offenders in such cases are utterly futile.

(*a.*) Within the past three months there have been in Aintab three wanton attacks by Moslems on wedding parties in Christian houses, in which many Christians were shamefully abused and severely beaten, and for which no satisfaction has been secured.

(*b.*) In the same city, and within the same time, there have been three cases of sodomy violently perpetrated by Moslems upon Christian boys, two of whom were about 11, and one 16 years of age, and for this no punishment has been inflicted, although the most energetic representations have been made in the case to the Government.

9. It is a well understood fact that the idea and hope is generally cherished among the lower classes of Moslems that under certain circumstances, not unlikely to occur, a general rising of Moslems, and an indiscriminate massacre of Christians will be undertaken, and these and not a few Moslems in high office and authority have given free expression to sentiments calculated to encourage and inflame this idea. In view of these and other similar facts which we need not now name, we desire most earnestly to solicit and implore the intervention of the British Government in such a way as may best and most speedily secure the protection of the Christian people of this vilayet.

We have, &c.

(Signed) Rev. M. G. PAPAZIAN.
Professor H. KRIKORIAN, *of Aintab College for Central Turkey.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 136.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

Aleppo, October 4, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith a Report upon the condition of the villages at Djibbin, in the Caza of Khalfat, Sandjak of Urfa, which has been prepared by the Rev. Mr. Sanders, of Aintab, who has just visited the village in question. I regret that I have no time to prepare a copy of this Report before the departure of the mail.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

Inclosure 4 in No. 136.

Report upon the Condition of the Villagers at Djibbin, in the Caza of Khalfat, Sandjak of Urfa.

THE village of Jibbin is in the Sandjak of Oorfa, belonging to the Vilayet of Aleppo, and is in the Kaïmakamlik of Rum-Kala (called also Halfet), on the Mesopotamian side of the Euphrates some two hours from the river and seven hours from the well-known city Beridjik. Ten years ago it was very prosperous. It suffered seriously, however, for years from locusts, but emerged from that plague in better form than any of the neighbouring villages, all of which are Kurdish, but not the wild Kurd of the Bitlis region. These neighbouring villages are wholly occupied with robbery, of the sneak-thief variety, and husbandry, thus giving Jibbin the monopoly in the trades and like pursuits, hence, of course, they were comparatively wealthy.

The population of Jibbin is composed of Armenians, and a people who are called "Ges," i.e., both Christian and Moslem. They are both baptized and circumcised, and their marriages have been solemnized by Christian priests. Lately, however, they have yielded to pressure and become wholly Moslem. They were very poor, while their Armenian neighbours were very prosperous. Only in the light of this fact will their conduct in the recent troubles be understood.

The trouble of September 1894 was only the culmination of troubles which began two or more years previously. At that time an elderly woman with five girls were watching a field at some distance from Jibbin. Four young men, fully armed, attacked them with evil intent, but the woman and girls resisted so bravely that they were able to repulse the rascals until, after more than half-an-hour had passed, help came and they were saved. Their fathers had the young fellows arrested, and they were imprisoned for one months. A little later, two brothers, near relatives of the men in prison, were quite seriously wounded, probably by near male relatives of the girls. Though complaint was made of only four of these relatives, seven of them were imprisoned by the Government for some months. As the boys were quite seriously injured, money damages were also demanded, and 1,000 piastres current (£7 8*s*) was paid. The father of the boys, a man by the name of Sako (Sarkis) was dissatisfied with this and demanded much more, and not getting any satisfaction, seems from this time to have planned revenge.

Up to this time the Kurds of the region had always been on excellent terms with the Armenians of Jibbin. The nearest village to Jibbin is the Kurdish village of Omerli, about 2 miles away. Fine distinctions about "mine" and "thine" do not obtain here. At this time Sako, and his nephew and pal, Enoch by name, began to invite men over from Omerli in twos or threes, feed them, give them raki to drink, and then put them up to robbing the Armenians of Jibbin. If one of these latter persons at any time went off alone with a donkey to ride, or something valuable with him, word would be sent to meet him in some lonely place and rob him. This had continued for a year or two. While individual losses might be small, the aggregate losses of the village were very considerable.

We now come to the murder of the Kurd, Abajo, the cause of all the trouble. The date cannot be given exactly, but was not far from the 1st September, 1894. One afternoon about that time Sako invited two Kurds from Omerli, feasted them, and then sent them with his son to his vineyard with a supply of raki. Only one of them,

however, a fellow, Husso by name, drank, but he so freely that he could not return but lay in the road cursing every one who passed. A little boy came along taking water to one of the fields. They called on him for a drink which he gave them, and then they demanded the rest to pour on the Kurd's head. Jibbin has no water-supply other than cisterns, hence water is precious, and the boy refused to give up the rest of the water. They then took the water away forcibly, struck him, and used it as they wished, cursing the boy, his mother, and all his friends, &c. The boy went home crying, and his father immediately started after the Kurd, but he had come into the village, and was now in Sako's house. The two houses infringe on each other, and Husso, hearing the father storming about him, fired over the wall and threw stones also into the yard. It was now near evening, but the father started for Halfet to complain to the Government. Sako at once called a pal, Enoch by name, and sent him to Omerli to tell Husso's father that Husso had tried to run off with one of Kurkur Garabed's daughters, and that her brothers had interfered, killed Husso, and saved the girl, and that he was to come and take off the body.

Husso's father and two brothers, Hamo and Gummo, with some neighbours, soon came to avenge him, arriving at Jibbin some two hours after sunset. They at once called out, "Show us where is my son's body, and where Kurkur's boys are. I am going to kill some of them." They attacked Kurkur's house, fired into the door, threw stones, &c.; but the leading Armenians of the village were near by talking over their taxes. Hearing the tumult they hurried to the scene, and as they were considerable in number, the Kurds ran away, firing back as they ran. The Armenians called out to them and the father stopped; they went up to him and convinced him that no harm had happened to Husso and took away his gun. After satisfying the old man they returned to their work, and the Kurds passed round the corner formed by the Protestant church, and into a space beyond, inclosed by a semi-circle of houses. Here they fired—but probably without aim—at a sick fellow who was out there by himself. He at once dropped, screaming, "They have shot me," though really unhurt. His wife, child, and sister were sick at the time, and all four died of shock within a week.

All this happened in front of the house of the Catholic priest, occupied after his death by his son.

Just then a lot of the young fellows of Jibbin, Moslem as well as Christian, arrived on the scene. Husso had by this time joined the Kurds, but the number of the Jibbin people being greater, the Kurds ran off with the exception of the old man and one son, Gummo. A fight followed, Gummo was wounded slightly, and the old man, Abager, severely. He was carried off a little distance, and in the morning taken home, where he died on the third day. The Kurds declared at this time that he was wounded by seven persons, four Christian and three Moslem. His wounds, however, were only three or four in number.

The wounded man was examined before his death, and fourteen of the Jibbin Christians were arrested and taken down to the Government at Halfet. Two of the fourteen were in Halfet at the time of the murder, and went up to Jibbin with the Jabdiyés who were sent to make the arrests. They were, however, arrested as participants, and later were sent to Oorfa. No Moslems were arrested or molested in any way, though the crowd which charged the Kurds was composed of Moslems as well as Christians, and the Kurds themselves, at first, declared that the murderers were of both parties.

Just a little while before the murder the Local Government is said to have received a cypher telegram warning them to look out for rebellion among the Armenians. This seems to have incited the Government to special zeal in breaking down the Christians of Jibbin.

After the arrest of the fourteen persons, mentioned above, the Mal-Mudiri of the time, who was then Acting Kaïmakam, went up to Jibbin, had private conferences with the Moslems, instructed them what complaints to make, and whom to complain of, then sitting as a public official, received the complaints he had himself formulated, and at once arrested the persons complained of. The complaints were framed to bring the number up to forty or forty-two. The numbers vary slightly according to different accounts. Of these, thirteen or fifteen ran away. The number who actually entered prison was twenty-seven. Many of these were not in the fight at all. Almost every prominent Christian was called for, showing that the purpose of the Government was not merely or at all the punishment of the crime, but the crushing of the Christians. This is also shown by the disproportion between wounds inflicted, four or five at the utmost, and the number of persons arrested—forty or more.

The Kurds at this time began their persecutions, and appeal was made to the

Government in a formal written Petition. "How many of your wives and daughters and sons have they violated that you should come here and make a fuss?" was the answer of the Acting Governor, as he threw back the Petition to them and drove them out of the room. The most prominent Moslem of Halfet, a member of the Idaré-Mijlies, here protested, and later he helped the Christians, telling them what to do, &c. They sent telegrams to the Vali, to the Mutessarif, to the Public Prosecutors at Aleppo and at Oorfo, but no response whatever came. Later these telegrams were repeated, and a few days later two officers came from Oorfa direct to Jibbin, looked up matters, and were very kind to the Christians the short time they were there. They then went to Halfet, but the hopes of the Christians were to come to nothing, for, after conference with the Mal-Mudiri, they left for Oorfa without having in any way helped the Christians.

Before they came, a house had been fired and destroyed. The most prominent Christians had sent their goats and sheep to another village, where they had friends. The Kurds came on the shepherd as he was alone with the flocks, compelled him to separate the property of the Jibbin Christians, and at once ran them off. The shepherd, being alone, could not help himself, but came at once to the Government and witnessed to the facts of the case.

By this time more than one-half of the Christian families had left Jibbin.

After the officers from Oorfa went back, the Government again sided openly with the Kurds, and the latter burned more Christian houses. The Catholic priest's house was also burned in part, including that part which, in the lifetime of the priest, had been used as the Catholic house of worship.

The Jibbin people have always been obliged to watch their fields and vineyards very carefully as the crops were getting ripe. Their property being extensive, this could only be done by putting a single person, or, at most, two, in each field or vineyard. Now, however, the Kurds made it impossible for three or four even to watch together, hence robbing of the fields and vineyards became a nightly occurrence. In this the Kurds were not alone.

We have spoken above of the poverty of the Ges of Jibbin, now become Moslem. They have hitherto been friends of the Christians. They were, however, unable to resist the temptation of helping relieve the Christians of their goods, and have, perhaps, been worse than the Kurds in their depredations. Finally, the situation became so bad, that they appealed to the Government, and a Yuz-Bashi was immediately sent up with a few Jabliyés. These people took no notice of the robbers, but showed great efficiency in dealing with the chickens of the village, the number of which they largely reduced.

In fine, it may be said, in connection with this, that the Jibbin Christians secured only a part of their crops last autumn, a fact estimated as being only a quarter of the crop, or, at most, much less than half.

Meanwhile, the twenty-seven prisoners were closely confined.

Two died in prison, one of them under circumstances so cruel that we relate the story in full.

He was one of the more prominent Christians, Kiwan Agha by name. He became very ill, and the Municipality physician—a Christian—notified the authorities that he would die if he remained in prison. Before this, the Government had taken him out of the actual prison, and let him stay round the yard, and in the room of the officers, in the condition technically called "under surveillance." With the knowledge of the Kaimakam—who had been appointed meantime—he slept at the house of the physician. The Municipality physician offered to take him to his own house and be responsible for him. The Kaimakam, Mal-Mudiri, Tahrirat-kya-tibi, and Mehmed Effendi signed a permission, but the Kadi refused, and had him put into the actual prison again.

The following day he had a bad hæmorrhage and died.

After the man died the Kadi hurriedly signed the paper, and, of course, would claim now that he signed it when first presented to him. The Belediyé physician reported in accordance with the facts, but his report was refused, and he was compelled to write and sign another report, as dictated by the Cadi, the latter saying that the former report would make the Government guilty of murder. The physician held out, but on being informed by the Cadi that he would immediately be sent to Constantinople, bound, as a revolutionist, if he did not write out the report asked of him. This was in the dark days before the Powers took action. The physician was cowed, and yielded.

We come now to the so-called trial of the prisoners. Long before this the Moslems or Ges of Jibbin would approach the Christians, and say, "Pay us so much money or we will witness against you." They were bought off. Later, the Government officials began to question the prisoners as to how many liras they would give not to go to Oorfa. Seven persons bought off or were bought off by their friends. The Government had

gone so far as to demand the arrest of three women, though the Jibbin women are no more in the habit of using knives and daggers than women of other places. The Government, however, insisted, and they were bought off by their friends.

About five months after the attack the remaining prisoners, about twenty, went to Oorfa. They lay there six months. The witnesses having had their fill, gave at Oorfa witness fairly in accord with the facts. Among the witnesses was a Moslem of Jibbin, who was probably one of the murderers. No one, however, ever even spoke of arresting him. At Oorfa most of them were acquitted, but four were condemned to fifteen years' imprisonment. Of these one had died, two had escaped, and a fourth, who had nothing to buy off with, was in hand. Some of the condemned men are very likely among the murderers. The fight took place in the night, and who are the actual murderers seems to be a wholly unknown question, except to themselves, though, of course, there are suspicions.

While they were in Oorfa the despoiling of the Christians went on at a merry rate. Guns were fired over the houses of the Christians nightly, and houses were opened. The house of Sarkis Agha, the wealthiest Protestant, was opened, though seven walls had to be pierced to get to it. He lost nothing then, but when matters first became serious valuable goods were taken by his boys, in his absence, to the house of a Moslem neighbour, but they could never get them back. The Armenian priest's house was opened and much property belonging to the church taken as well as much that was his own. Other houses were also opened, cattle stolen, &c.

Later in the spring the Kurds let their cattle loose in the growing wheat-fields and destroyed other crops, and later reaped the remaining wheat. This came to be so bad that the women—the men were in Oorfa either in prison or working for those in prison—gave an "Arzuhal" to the Government about it. In consequence, two men were arrested, one of whom wore, on the testimony of the women, in place of a shirt, one of the surplices stolen from the priest's house.

Let with so plain a proof of robbery, the Cadi, on the second day, accepted a kid apiece from them and released them.

Finally, the men came back from Oorfa. In a short time the Kurds became active again, especially pressing the question of blood-money, a custom which obtains among these Kurds. When they were in Oorfa, the sons of the murdered man Ahmar came to work for the condemnation of the prisoners. He was bought off by a written promise to conform, after they were acquitted, to the customs of the region.

Some little time ago a Kurd killed another Kurd, and the blood-money was finally settled for £T. 40. These Kurds, however, demanded £T. 200. While not presented to the people of Jibbin as a formal demand, they (the Kurds) have said among themselves that if two (according to some reports, four) virgins (specifying the ones they wanted) were handed over to them, or if the whole village would turn Moslem, the matter might be settled. It is very much to be doubted whether the Christians of Jibbin can now pay the demand for blood-money, so reduced are they.

The demand for blood-money and the attacks of the Kurds became so violent that they again appealed to the Government. "You have killed a Moslem. Is what you have suffered much for you?" was the answer they received, and their Petition was not accepted. Since that time the robbing has continued, and sometimes attacks have been made on the village, though, so far, no one has been even wounded.

The general feeling of the Moslems has been reflected in their treatment of the places of Christian worship. The Protestant church has been broken open, the pulpit and some of the window cases have been carried off and the room defiled. The Armenian church is very strong so that no one has been able to break into it, but in the yard great pains have been taken to express their hatred and contempt. The Catholic church, or rather the room used as such, was burned, and when the priest of Beridjik came to look it up he was threatened with imprisonment as an Armenian revolutionist, and finally went back to Beridjik under guard. When questioned by the Superior Government they denied that there was such a church here.

The Christians have not been wholly without friends during this period. Mehmed Agha, the most prominent Moslem of Halfet, has befriended them more or less, as well as the Kaimakam who officiated for some months during this trouble. The latter was, however, a weak man and unable to withstand the other officers, who were their bitter enemies.

A few incidents will show how, even now that the trial is over, the hostility of the Government continues.

A young man with a very fine donkey went to a neighbouring village and there took a load of wheat. Husso, Hanno, sons of the murdered man, and Lenoch, the younger of

the two Armenian traitors, laid wait for him near the village, but some women watching from the roofs called out to him and warned him. He got off by superior running powers, but lost his property. When he appealed to the Government they sent out Jabdiyés, but the culprits refused to come, and that was the end of the matter except that witnesses and the Headman of the village were brought in. The Cadi refused to sign the papers. The next day some 400 okes (a ½-ton) of fresh grapes were accepted, and all parties were freed.

The night before the writer was in Jibbin a poor fellow who was sleeping on the roof of his house with his family had his house entered and absolutely everything in the house taken. All he had left was the two blankets, or, rather, carpets, in which they were sleeping. He appealed to the Government, and the officer sent up to examine into the matter demanded over half-a-pound as his fee, and when the poor fellow could not pay that, seized and carried off the "kelims," or carpets, which were all he had left.

In Ehnesh, a neighbouring village, a Moslem and a Christian got into a fight over 2½ piastres' worth of wood. The Moslem finally clubbed the Christian, wounding him severely on the head. Complaint was made, but the Cadi refused to imprison the Kurd unless the Christian was imprisoned also. The Yuz-Bashi then instructed the Kurd to complain that many of the Christians had beaten him and to [*sic*] limp, &c. His acting, however, was so poor, and the wounds of the other were so apparent, that it did not succeed.

Of course the Armenians have appealed repeatedly to the Patriarch and to the Superior Government at Oorfa and Aleppo. For sending one such telegram to the Patriarch four prominent Armenians were called up by the Cadi, and attempts made to punish some of them. An outside Armenian was with great difficulty rescued from a Kurd intent on murdering him, just because he had gone to Beridjik and sent off telegrams to the authorities at Oorfa and Aleppo. Since that time he has been unable to make collections, and in other ways has suffered severely for his effort to help his fellow-Christians.

Not only do the Christians now suffer from the lawlessness of the Kurds, but also in the tithes. The Tithe-master ("Multezim") is supposed to be in secret partnership with the Cadi and Mal-Mudiri, and is helped by them in illegal ways. This year he is charging the Christian Jibbinlis twice as much as any one else; so much that in several cases the owners of the fields and vineyards will have to pay money over and above giving up the entire crop in order to satisfy his demands. Some have directly offered to give him the entire crop to be free, but he refuses to accept it, insisting on money, and that, too, more than the whole crop is worth. If a Christian remonstrates, or proposes anything different, he is threatened with the "pig-ball," a punishment in which the ankles are bound a few inches apart and then drawn over the head, in which painful position the sufferer is left as many hours as cruel caprice may dictate.

The traitor Sako feared for his life and ran away, but his pal Lenoch has continued in Jibbin, and keeps the Kurds up to their work.

If report is to be trusted, the Vali has sent very good orders to Jibbin, commanding that those who are especially molesting the Christians be arrested. They are eleven in number, some in Jibbin and some in Omerli. Their names are: Monorkian Lenoch (the traitor), Choban Mishinin Oghloo Savo, Arachli Diko Mohammed, Arachli Bekir Oghlon Abo, Omerli Aboozer Oghloo Husso, and brother Hamo, and Masto Oghloo Mucho, Hallonun Oghloo Arslan, Mullahun Oghloo Ahmed; Gochonun Oghloo Murad, and Aghi Oghloo Misto.

The confinement of these men would probably give the Christians a rest. The great trouble, however, is the utter corruption and disobedient spirit of the Halfet Government. Unless this is changed, Valis and Mutessarifs will issue orders in vain.

Respectfully submitted.

(Signed) C. S. SANDERS,
American Missionary at Aintab.

P.S.—In the preceding pages one point has been forgotten that is quite important. Wood, much more, timber for building is scarce and quite expensive. Hence the rafters of deserted houses are a great temptation to the Moslems, they using them for firewood, as they have done already in some cases; and, on the other hand, their loss makes it impossible in the case of most of the Christians, in their present despoiled condition, to rebuild. The loss of stone is nothing, the loss of the timber is vital. The villagers say they cannot hold out many weeks longer. If they leave and the roof-timbers are burned, the Christians cannot come back, hence very speedy action seems imperative

In dealing with this case, no settlement will be a just settlement which does not

include severe punishment for at least three Government officers: the ex-Mal-Mudiri, who is said now to hold the same position at Aintab; the present Cadi of Halfet; and the present gendarmerie, Yuz-Bashi. Until that is done, the farce of making out documents for arrests, &c., which will never be carried into effect, but are prepared solely for the use of blinding Inspectors, will doubtless continue.

C. S. S.

No. 137.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 689.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 17, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah, reporting on the state of affairs at that port.

I have instructed my Dragoman to read the fourth and fifth paragraphs to the Grand Vizier, for his private information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Acting Consul Abbay to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Jeddah, September 20, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report that since the date of my despatch which I addressed to your Excellency on the 16th instant, the position of affairs here has remained unaltered.

The Vali and Grand Shereef remain at Mecca, and nothing more has been heard as to when they are likely to visit Jeddah. In the meantime no further progress appears to have been made towards the arrest of those concerned in the attack on the Consuls.

My letter to the Vali on this subject of the 16th instant (referred to in my despatch of the same date) having remained unanswered, I telegraphed on the 27th instant to his Excellency requesting replies to that communication and also to my letter to him of the 16th instant (referred to in the same despatch) requesting information as to the result of the inquiry into the conduct of the troops at Kuttana. Being still without any reply, I have again telegraphed to his Excellency to-day requesting an answer.

I need not point out to your Excellency that the fact that no proper reparation has yet been made by the Turkish authorities for the wanton outrage perpetrated on the 30th May last is producing a bad impression on the natives here, who are beginning to believe that no local satisfaction will ever be obtained by the Governments whose Consular Representatives were assailed, and who are now accustomed to the presence of the English and French war-vessels which no longer inspire them and the local authorities with the same feeling of apprehension as was caused by their arrival, when it was believed that an occupation or bombardment of the town was imminent.

While remaining inactive so far as regards the arrest of the assassins, Ratib Pasha has apparently not been idle in amassing money by corrupt means. Although his Excellency's salary during his stay here amounts up to the present time to about £ T. 600, yet by the Khedivial mail-steamer which left Jeddah on the 17th instant he forwarded to the Crédit Lyonnais, at Alexandria, the sum of 2,500*l.* in dollars. It is rumoured here that he intends with this sum to repurchase the steam-ship "Medina," late steam-ship "State of Pennsylvania," belonging to himself and to the Grand Shereef, which will be sold at Suez for that amount by the Egyptian Mixed Tribunals, which ordered the sale of the vessel to satisfy the claims of numerous creditors. This ship will no doubt be again employed in the pilgrim traffic, and in that event pressure will probably be put on the Malay pilgrims by the Grand Shereef and Vali to force them to book by this vessel at higher rates than those charged by other Lines.

With reference to the maltreatment and imprisonment at Mecca of the Cavass of the French Consulate here, reported in my despatch of the 16th instant, I have the honour to state that before releasing him from prison the Turkish authorities forced him to produce a local subject as surety for his appearance when required. The cavass then

left for Jeddáh and was shortly after summoned to Mecca, but was not permitted by my French colleague to go. The Turkish authorities thereupon imprisoned his surety. M. Descontures at once informed the French Ambassador of the action of the authorities and received in reply a telegram *en clair* informing him that if the Vali insisted on the question of bail and the imprisonment of the surety, the Ambassador would demand the dismissal of the Chief of Police. The Vali in reply made many denials and excuses and this phase of the incident terminated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

P.S.—I have just heard a report to the effect that the Vali will leave Mecca to-morrow for Jeddáh.

A. D. A.

No. 138.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 692.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 17, 1895.*

I HAVE heard from several quarters that a massacre of Armenians took place at Ak-Hissar, a station on the Anatolian Railway near Guévé, in the Government of Ismidt, on Wednesday or Thursday last.

The most circumstantial account which I have received comes from the Armenian Bishop of Ismidt, who was apparently at Ak-Hissar at the time of the massacre, but left at once for Ismidt, and subsequently for Constantinople, to bring the matter to the notice of the authorities.

He stated that the massacre took place on a market day, when a number of Armenians had come in from the villages. The Mudir ordered a number of shops to be searched for arms, and during the proceedings a quarrel arose which ended in a general attack by the Mussulmans on the Christian inhabitants. The Bishop counted thirty-one killed, besides which he heard that fifty-five or sixty more had disappeared, and thirty-three been seriously wounded. He saw half-dead men thrown into wells, and filth and rubbish cast in on the top of them. He estimated the loss of property from pillage at £T. 15,000.

Two other accounts received from Englishmen residing at Ismidt agree in the main with his version, and add that the Kaïmakam of Guévé hastened to the scene as soon as he heard of the disturbance, and took energetic measures to stop the slaughter, even endangering his own life. The Mutessarif of Ismidt, who is described as an energetic official, arrived in the afternoon, and is said to be conducting an investigation.

The news from the provinces is generally disquieting. Mr. Cumberbatch reports that the condition of the Vilayets of Kharput and Erzeroum inspires him with apprehension of an outbreak. Troubles have occurred at Diarbekir, where the Government's attempts to force the Armenians and other Christians to sign an Address of thanks appear to have resulted in many persons taking refuge in the churches.

There are also rumours of massacres at Bilijik and Ordou, but these have not been confirmed.

In most cases the Turkish authorities appear to have done their best to maintain order.

For instance, I am informed by a trustworthy source that on the occasion of the recent disorders in Constantinople Munir Pasha, the Governor-General of Khudavendigkiar (= the Vilayet of Broussa) called under arms the reserves of the Sandjak of Broussa in order to prevent any attack on the Armenians of his province.

The troops were distributed among the various Armenian villages of the sandjak, and armed bands of twenty-five soldiers were told off to patrol the streets of Broussa by night.

His Excellency also sent for the Notables of the Armenian community at Broussa, and informed them they had nothing to fear from the Turkish population, as he was responsible for the safety of every person within his jurisdiction, whether Christian or Mussulman. He accordingly advised them to continue their usual routine of business, and requested them to repeat his assurances to their community, and use their influence to keep the lower classes quiet.

Shortly afterwards an Armenian was killed by a Laz at Bazarkeui, near Guemlik.

The murder was the result of an altercation, and had no political character, but Munir Pasha, on hearing of it, immediately dispatched a second battalion to the district, whither one had already proceeded.

The action of the Vali has produced an excellent effect in allaying the fears of the Christian population, and reflects the greatest credit on his Excellency, who was Minister of Finance in 1882.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 139.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 693.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 17, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Report by the Honourable R. Lister on the condition of the prisons of Constantinople and the treatment of the Armenian prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 139.

Mr. Lister to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Therapia, October 17, 1895.*

IN obedience to your Excellency's instructions, I proceeded yesterday to Stamboul to avail myself of the permission, granted by the Minister of Police, for me to visit the prisons in which are confined the Armenians arrested during the recent disturbances in Constantinople.

I took with me Mr. Bloch, Dragoman Archivist of this Embassy, and Mr. Thompson, Inspector of Police of Her Majesty's Consular Court; and the President of the Commission of Inquiry, Husni Bey, was deputed by the Minister of Police to accompany me round the prisons.

I commenced with the "Tevkifkhané" Prison ("Prison Préventive"), situated in the courtyard of the Préfecture de Police, where prisoners are detained pending trial. The total number of prisoners confined there was 390, of which sixty-eight were Armenians, arrested during the recent disturbances.

The first ward on the ground floor, 24 feet by 14 feet and 13 feet high, contained twenty-seven Armenians, all of the lowest class. The room was absolutely bare, lighted by four windows, two opening on to the courtyard and two on to another ward. It was tolerably clean, but smelt nasty owing to the proximity of the latrines. The prisoners looked cowed, but appeared in good health, and did not, so far as I could see, bear any traces of violence or maltreatment. Their daily ration consists of 300 drams of bread (a little over 2 lbs avoirdupois), and as much water as they like. They admitted themselves that they received their food regularly, and made no complaint, but this may have been due to the presence of the Turkish officials.

The remaining Armenians were dispersed throughout the other wards, of which there are about twenty, varying in size from 30 feet by 25 feet to 20 feet by 15 feet. All the occupants of these wards appeared to enjoy great liberty as regards going in and out of the prison yard, which was full, and I was particularly struck with the general laxness and absence of supervision. Cooking of various sorts was going on in every ward; the prisoners are allowed to smoke and occupy themselves as they please, and they all have bedding and rugs, which they provide for themselves. This was certainly not the case with the twenty-seven Armenians shut up in the first ward. They had no bedding, and there were no signs of cooking or "enfédjis;" the door also of their ward was locked, which was not the case with any of the others; and although the prison authorities assured me that they were allowed out during the day, I should be inclined to doubt the truth of this statement. At my request all the sixty-eight Armenians were brought into the courtyard, and I was able to verify their numbers. They were all of the lowest class, most of them appearing to be Hammals; only one had an approach to a black coat, and looked as if he might be employed in some small shop.

Mr. Thompson, who has often visited the prison, assured me that it presented the

same appearance as usual, and I saw no signs of its having been washed or in any way furbished up in preparation for my visit.

We then proceeded to the "Hapishané Umumi," or central penal establishment, a large area inclosed by an outer wall, containing the hospital, the prison, a mosque, and a Christian church.

I visited the hospital first. The special ward set aside for the Armenians who had been seriously wounded contained eighteen bedsteads, with proper bedding and pillows, all of which seemed tolerably clean. All the occupants had their heads bandaged; many of them their hands and arms as well. They looked terribly ill, but made no complaints, and said that they received regular medical attendance. The medical staff consists of four Turkish doctors and one Greek, all holding certificates; and a military doctor, with the rank of Colonel, visits the hospital once a-day. The head apothecary, who is an Armenian, assured Mr. Blech that the patients received every attention. He looked, however, very much frightened himself, and the general cleanliness of the bedding, of the bandages, and of the patients themselves, some of whom had evidently been shaved that morning, incline me to suspect that preparations had been made for our visit. Six others in a very similar condition were in a smaller room next door. I then visited the ordinary hospital of the prison, where there were fifteen patients, who also seemed carefully tended.

A large number of convalescent Armenians, most of them with their heads or arms bandaged, were walking about in the courtyard of the prison. They slept in well-built wooden sheds, four in number, three of which were supposed to contain ten, and the fourth, which was larger, fifteen. There were straw mattresses on the floor covered with a sheet, and on each mattress was a pillow. I ascertained, however, from the patients themselves, that during the last few nights six or eight more Armenian prisoners had been turned in to sleep in each one of the sheds. On my inquiring the reason for this, the authorities justified their action on the ground of want of space, and stated that the extra prisoners were those whose cases were in course of investigation by the Commission of Inquiry. They had to pass the night somewhere, and it would be dangerous to put them into the ordinary wards occupied by the Mussulman prisoners.

I also inspected two wards which are generally used for solitary confinement, but which, owing to the exceptional number of prisoners, had been converted into temporary hospitals. There were eleven convalescent Armenians in one and fourteen in the other. They also had straw mattresses and pillows, the rooms were airy, and there appeared to be nothing to complain of.

One of the convalescent prisoners gave Mr. Thompson to understand that in the old hospital a very large number of Armenians were confined, and I asked to visit it next. I noticed a certain reluctance on the part of the authorities to accede to my request, but insisted, and we were taken upstairs to a large ward, about 75 feet long by 25 feet broad, the door of which was locked, and a gaoler stationed outside. In this ward there were 105 Armenians, all of the lowest class, and there is no doubt that they were terribly overcrowded. Some of them had bedding, but the majority must have been obliged to sleep on the floor. They, too, looked cowed, but otherwise showed no signs of ill-treatment, and admitted that they received their rations regularly, which, unlike those of the "Tevkifkhané," consisted of soup, meat, and potatoes once a-day, bread twice a-day, and as much water as they liked. The authorities assured me that they were taken out for two hours a-day, but one of the prisoners whispered to Mr. Blech that this was not the case, and the significant fact that the door of their ward alone was locked and guarded inclines me again to believe that they, like their fellow-countrymen in "Tekvifkhané," were deprived of this privilege enjoyed by all the other prisoners. The windows, however, of the ward, which, as I stated above, had been a hospital, were large and all open, and the room was airy.

I then visited the remaining wards, where the ordinary prisoners, 450 in number, were confined. They are large and, though rather crowded, possess a certain amount of ventilation. The prisoners seemed to enjoy a great deal of liberty, and were employed in various occupations, some cooking, others playing cards, and a few busy making small fancy articles, which they sell to any casual visitor.

It is possible that there exist underground secret cells where the horrors, vaguely spoken of here, are committed, but I can fairly say that I personally saw no signs of them; and Mr. Thompson, who knows the prisons, and has visited them continually and under varying circumstances, assures me that they presented very much the same appearance yesterday as they have for the last fifteen years; nor does he believe that any portion of them was concealed from us. He, at all events, knows of the existence of no cells or wards besides those which we were allowed to see.

The Commission of Inquiry has been working for the last five or six days in the

prisons, and the President, Husni Bey, informed me that up till yesterday sixty-six Armenians and sixty Mussulmans, arrested in consequence of the recent disturbances, had been released.

The Minister of Police, on my inquiring how many Mussulmans had been released, gave me the following numbers: 145 in Stamboul, 60 or 70 in Pera, and 8 to 10 at Scutari.

His Excellency also stated that only 170 Armenians had been arrested, but this is palpably untrue, as I myself saw 200.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

No. 140.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October 21.*)

(No. 694.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 17, 1895.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 697 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the Act embodying the reforms for the six vilayets inhabited by Armenians, as drawn up by the Delegates of the three Embassies, in conjunction with Munir Bey, the Secretary-General of the Foreign Department, and revised by the three Ambassadors and Said Pasha.

It is intended that this document should be promulgated in the form of an Annex to an Imperial Decree (probably a letter addressed to the Grand Vizier) which will notify the appointment of a High Commissioner, the amnesty, the arrangements for the return of the emigrants, and the application of the principles laid down in the Act to the other districts of Asiatic Turkey which contain a considerable proportion of Christians.

The terms in which the above provisions will be stated in the Decree have also been agreed upon, and will be found at the end of the Act.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 140.

*Act embodying the Reforms for the six Vilayets inhabited by Armenians, as drawn up by the Delegates of the three Embassies in conjunction with Munir Bey, the Secretary-General of the Foreign Department, and revised by the three Ambassadors and Said Pasha.**

Chapitre I.—*Vilayets et Mutessarifats.*

ARTICLE 1. Auprès de chaque vilayet (Gouvernement-Général) sera nommé un Moutavin non-Musulman conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre II du Règlement sur l'Administration Générale des Vilayets du 29 Chewal, 1286,†

Il sera chargé conformément à ce Règlement de coopérer aux affaires générales du vilayet et d'en préparer l'expédition.

Art. 2. Seront également nommés des Moutavins non-Musulmans auprès des Mutessarifs et des Caïmacams Musulmans dans les sandjaks et les cazas où cette mesure sera justifiée par l'importance de la population Chrétienne.

Chapitre II.—*Caïmacams.*

Art. 3. Les Caïmacams seront choisis sans distinction de religion par le Ministère de l'Intérieur parmi les diplômés de l'École Civile et nommés par Iradé Impérial.

Art. 4. Seront maintenus dans l'Administration ceux qui, étant actuellement en fonctions, seront reconnus capables bien que non-diplômés.

Dans le cas où il n'y aurait pas en ce moment un nombre de non-Musulmans diplômés de l'École Mulkié suffisant pour permettre de faire les nominations reconnues nécessaires, ces postes seront occupés par des personnes au service du Gouvernement qui, quoique non-diplômées, seront reconnues aptes à remplir les fonctions de Caïmacam.

* This is the Scheme of Reforms communicated by the Porte to Sir P. Currie on the 26th October, and sent home in his No. 704 of October 22, 1895.

† See Appendix, p. 99.

Chapitre III.—*Proportion des Chrétiens dans les Fonctions Publiques.*

Art. 5. Les fonctions administratives seront confiées aux sujets Musulmans et non-Musulmans proportionnellement aux chiffres des populations Musulmanes et non-Musulmanes de chaque vilayet.

Le nombre des fonctionnaires non-Musulmans de l'Administration de la Police et de la Gendarmerie sera fixé par la Commission Permanente de Contrôle.

Chapitre IV.—*Conseils des Sandjaks et Cazas.*

Art. 6. Les Conseils Administratifs des sandjaks et des cazas composés de membres élus et de membres de droit sont maintenus et fonctionneront conformément à l'Article 61 du Règlement sur l'Administration Générale des Vilayets de 1286,* et aux Articles 77 et 78 de la Loi des Vilayets de 1867, d'après lesquels ils ont été constitués.*

Leurs attributions sont fixées par les Articles 90, 91, et 92 du Règlement sur l'Administration Générale des Vilayets,† et par les Articles 38, 39, et 40 des Instructions relatives à l'Administration Générale des Vilayets du 25 Mouharrem, 1293.†

Chapitre V.—*Nahiés.*

Art. 7. Les nahiés seront organisés conformément aux prescriptions des Articles 94 à 106 du Règlement sur l'Administration Générale des Vilayets de 1286,‡ et des Articles 1 à 19 du Règlement sur l'Administration des Communes du 25 Mars, 1292.‡

Art. 8. Chaque nahié sera administré par un Moudir et un Conseil composé de quatre membres élus parmi les habitants.

Le Conseil choisira parmi ses membres un Moudir et un Adjoint. Le Moudir devra appartenir à la classe qui forme la majorité des habitants et l'Adjoint à l'autre classe. Le Conseil aura, en outre, un Secrétaire.

Art. 9. Si les habitants d'un nahié sont d'une même classe les membres du Conseil seront élus exclusivement parmi les habitants appartenant à cette même classe ; si la population du Cercle Communal est mixte la minorité devra être représentée proportionnellement à son importance relative à condition qu'elle compreme au moins vingt-cinq maisons.

Art. 10. Les Moudirs et les Secrétaires des nahiés sont rétribués.

Art. 11. Les candidats aux Conseils des Nahiés devront remplir les conditions prévues par l'Article 10 du Règlement sur l'Administration des Communes.§

Art. 12. Les Imams, les prêtres, les professeurs d'écoles, et tous ceux qui se trouvent au service du Gouvernement ne pourront être élus Moudirs.

Art. 13. Le Conseil sera renouvelé par moitié chaque année. Ses membres ainsi que le Moudir seront rééligibles.

Art. 14. Les attributions du Moudir et des Conseils des Nahiés sont réglées par les Articles 20 à 27 du Règlement sur l'Administration des Communes.‖

Villages des Nahiés.

Art. 15. Chaque village du nahié aura un Moukhtar. S'il y a plusieurs quartiers et plusieurs classes d'habitants il y aura un Moukhtar par quartier et par classe.

Art. 16. Aucun village ne pourra relever de deux nahiés à la fois.

Chapitre VI.—*Justice.*

Art. 17. Il y aura dans chaque localité un Conseil des Anciens présidé par le Moukhtar et dont la mission sera de concilier à l'amiable les contestations entre les habitants, contestations prévues par les lois judiciaires.

Art. 18. Les fonctions de Juges de Paix sont exercées dans les villages par les Conseils des Anciens et dans les communes par les Conseils Communaux. Leurs attributions et le degré de leur compétence sont déterminés par la loi.

Art. 19. Des Inspecteurs Judiciaires dont le nombre ne sera pas moindre de six et qui seront par moitié Musulmans et non-Musulmans, seront chargés dans chaque vilayet d'accélérer le jugement de tous les procès en cours et de surveiller l'état des prisons conformément au Règlement de . . . . .‖

* See Appendix, p. 99.
† Ibid., p. 100.
‡ Ibid., p. 101.
§ Ibid., p. 102.
‖ Ibid., p. 103.

Les inspections devront être faites en même temps par deux Inspecteurs, dont l'un Musulman et l'autre non-Musulman.

Chapitre VII.—*Police.*

Art. 20. Les agents de la police seront recrutés parmi les sujets Musulmans et non-Musulmans de l'Empire proportionnellement aux chiffres des populations Musulmane et non-Musulmane du vilayet.

Art. 21. Des contingents suffisants seront affectés à chaque subdivision administrative, y compris le nahié.

Les agents de police du nahié sont placés sous les ordres du Moudir et commandés par des Commissaires.

Leurs armes et leurs uniformes seront identiques aux modèles déjà adoptés.

Chapitre VIII.—*Gendarmerie.*

Art. 22. Les officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats de la gendarmerie seront recrutés parmi les habitants Musulmans et non-Musulmans de l'Empire, proportionnellement aux chiffres des populations Musulmane et non-Musulmane de chaque vilayet.

La gendarmerie sera soldée et entretenue aux frais de la caisse du vilayet.

La solde des gendarmes est supérieure à celle des soldats de l'armée Impériale, et celle des officiers équivalente à la solde des officiers de l'armée Impériale.

Art. 23. La gendarmerie est chargée du maintien de l'ordre et de l'escorte de la poste.

Chapitre IX.—*Gardes-Champêtres.*

Art. 24. Le Conseil du Nahié choisira des gardes-champêtres dans les différentes classes de la population.

Leur nombre sera fixé par la Commission Permanente de Contrôle, conformément aux besoins de chaque nahié, sur le rapport du Moudir et la proposition du Vali.

Leur uniforme et leur armement seront arrêtés par le Département de la Guerre.

Chapitre X.—*Prisons et Comité d'Enquête Préliminaire.*

Art. 25. Les Règlements existants sur la tenue des prisons et des maisons d'arrêt seront strictement exécutés.

Art. 26. Le Comité d'Enquête Préliminaire prévu par les Articles 11 et 12 des Instructions relatives à l'Administration Générale des Vilayets* est appelé à fonctionner de la façon la plus régulière.

Chapitre XI.—*Contrôle des Kurdes.*

Art. 27. Les localités de migration des Kurdes seront fixées d'avance de façon à éviter tout dommage aux habitants de la part des Achirets. Un officier ayant sous ses ordres une force armée suffisante et des gendarmes accompagnera chaque tribu dans sa migration. Un Commissaire de Police lui sera adjoint.

Les Kurdes remettront à l'autorité des ôtages pendant leurs migrations.

Les Règlements sur les feuilles de route et le port d'armes seront appliqués aux Kurdes.

Les tribus nomades et errantes seront engagées à se fixer sur des terres qui leur seront concédées par le Gouvernement.

Chapitre XII.—*Cavalerie Hamidié.*

Art. 28. Le port d'armes et d'uniformes par les cavaliers Hamidiés en dehors des périodes d'instruction est prohibé.

En dehors de ces périodes, les cavaliers Hamidiés sont justiciables des Tribunaux ordinaires.

* See Appendix, p. 103.

Un Règlement Militaire qui déterminera tous les détails de leur service sera élaboré sans retard.

Chapitre XIII.—*Titres de Propriété.*

Art. 29. Il sera institué au chef-lieu du vilayet et des sandjaks des Commissions pour la revision des titres de propriété.

Ces Commissions seront composées de quatre membres (deux Musulmans et deux non-Musulmans), et présidées par le Directeur des Archives ou le préposé aux Immeubles.

Leurs décisions seront soumises aux Conseils d'Administration.

En outre, quatre Délégués seront envoyés chaque année de Constantinople dans les vilayets pour examiner les irrégularités qui auraient pu surgir dans les affaires de propriétés.

Chapitre XIV.—*Perception des Impôts.*

Art. 30. Pour éviter l'emploi de la force publique, des agents spéciaux, qui ne pourront faire aucune réquisition de fourrages ni de vivres, et qui n'auront aucun maniement de fonds, remettront aux Moukhtars et aux Receveurs des villages et quartiers élus par les habitants, les feuilles sur lesquelles sont inscrits les impôts dus par chaque habitant.

Les Moukhtars et Receveurs susnommés seront seuls chargés de la perception des impôts et de leur consignation aux caisses de l'État.

Chapitre XV.—*Dîmes.*

Art. 31. La perception de la dîme se fera par voie d'affermage. L'affermage en gros demeure aboli et est remplacé par la mise en adjudication par villages et au nom des habitants.

En cas de difficulté, ceux-ci pourront recourir aux Tribunaux. Dans le cas où personne ne se présenterait pour l'affermage des dîmes de certains villages, ou bien si le prix offert était inférieur à la valeur réelle des dîmes à adjuger, ces dîmes seront administrées en régie, conformément au Règlement sur la matière.

La corvée étant abolie la prestation en nature et en argent est maintenue pour les travaux d'utilité publique.

Le budget de l'Instruction Publique dans chaque vilayet est fixé par le Ministère de l'Instruction Publique.

La vente pour cause de dettes fiscales ou personnelles de la demeure du contribuable, des terrains nécessaires à sa subsistance, de ses instruments de travail, de ses bêtes de labour, et de ses grains demeure interdite.

Chapitre XVI.—*Commission Permanente de Contrôle.*

Art. 32. Il sera institué à la Sublime Porte une Commission Permanente de Contrôle composée par moitié de membres Musulmans et non-Musulmans, et chargée de surveiller l'exacte application des réformes.

Les Ambassades feront parvenir à cette Commission, par l'intermédiaire de leurs Drogmans, les avis, communications, et renseignements qu'elles jugeront nécessaires, dans les limites de l'application des réformes et des mesures prescrites par le présent Acte.

Lorsque la Sublime Porte et les Ambassades seront d'accord pour considérer la Commission comme ayant accompli son mandat, elle sera dissoute.

Paragraphes figurant dans le Décret.

Paragraphe 1.—*Haut Commissaire de Surveillance pour l'Application des Réformes.*

(Traduction.)

Un fonctionnaire digne de considération à tous égards sera nommé et envoyé sur les lieux à titre de Haut Commissaire (Mufettich) par le Gouvernement Impérial avec mission spéciale de surveiller l'exécution des réformes et de présider à leur application.

En cas d'absence ou d'empêchement ce Haut Commissaire sera remplacé provisoirement par un autre haut fonctionnaire Musulman désigné par Sa Majesté Impériale.

Le Haut Commissaire Impérial sera accompagné dans sa mission par un Adjoint (Moavin) non-Musulman.

Paragraphe 2.—*Amnistie.*

Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, ayant accordé, le 29 Juillet, 1895, une amnistie aux Arméniens accusés ou condamnés pour des faits politiques, cette mesure sera appliquée à tous ceux qui auraient été incarcérés avant cette date, et qui seraient encore détenus, et qui ne seraient pas convaincus de participation directe à des crimes de droit commun.

Paragraphe 3.—*Rentrée des Emigrés.*

Les Arméniens qui auraient été expulsés ou éloignés de leur pays ou qui auraient émigré en pays étranger, pourront rentrer librement en Turquie, après que leur nationalité Ottomane et leur bonne conduite auront été démontrées.

Paragraphe 4.—*Situation des Non-Musulmans dans les autres Vilayets de l'Anatolie.*

Des mesures conformes aux principes ci-dessus seront appliquées dans les cazas tels que Zéitoun et Hadjin.

APPENDIX.

Articles in the Turkish Règlements, &c., referred to in the Project of Reforms of October 15, 1895.

CHAPITRE I.—ARTICLE 1.

Règlement sur l'Administration Générale des Vilayets du 29 *Chewal,* 1287.

ARTICLE 17. Les Muavins ont pour devoirs d'aider les Valis dans leur pouvoir exécutif général du vilayet.

Ces devoirs consistent à coopérer avec le Vali dans toutes les affaires ressortissant des attributions de ce dernier, désignées dans le Chapitre I, à étudier les papiers qui seront adressés par les divers bureaux du vilayet ainsi que les autres lettres et documents dont le Vali lui permettra de prendre connaissance, à les renvoyer aux bureaux respectifs, à soumettre au Vali, par l'entremise du Directeur des Archives, un résumé des pièces décrétées, à écrire sur le dos des documents relatifs aux affaires intérieures du vilayets l'avis et la décision du Gouvernement Général, et à soumettre à la décision du Vali les questions qui exigent l'opinion personnelle de ce dernier.

Les fonctions du Muavin peuvent être aussi déléguées à un autre fonctionnaire du chef-lieu du vilayet.

CHAPITRE IV.—ARTICLE 6.

Règlement sur l'Administration Générale des Vilayets du 29 *Chewal,* 1287.

ART. 61. Pour la délibération sur les affaires relatives à l'administration générale et particulière des vilayets, lesquelles seront spécifiées dans les Chapitres suivants, ont été institués un Conseil Général convoqué une fois par an au siège du vilayet, et les Conseils d'Administration permanents siégeant dans les chefs-lieux des vilayets, des arrondissements, et des cantons. Outre ces Conseils, les villages et mahiés ont des Conseils particuliers pour leurs affaires respectives, et chaque ville et bourg ont de même à part leurs Conseils spéciaux pour le règlement des affaires particulières propres à chaque communauté ainsi que de leurs affaires municipales.

Loi des Vilayets de 1867.

Art. 77. Le Chef de la Magistrature, le Contrôleur-Général, le Directeur de la Correspondance, le fonctionnaire attaché à la Cour Civile et Criminelle, le Mufti, le Cadi, et les Chefs religieux des communautés non-Musulmanes, siégeant de droit au Conseil d'Administration du chef-lieu du vilayet, se réunissent en Comité Électoral sous la présidence du Vali. Ce Comité choisit sur la liste des sujets

Ottomans résidant tant aux chefs-lieux du vilayet et des sandjaks que dans les chefs-lieux des cazas, payant 500 piastres, au moins, de contributions directes, jouissant de crédit et de considération dans le vilayet et sachant lire et écrire, des personnes en nombre égal au triple de celui des membres à nommer au Conseil d'Administration Centrale et à la Cour Civile et Criminelle.

La liste des éligibles est réduite dans les chef-lieux des sandjaks, conformément aux prescriptions relatives à l'élection des Conseillers et des Mumeiz des sandjaks et des cazas.

Les procès-verbaux contenant le résultat de ces opérations électorales et transmis par les chefs-lieux des sandjaks, sont adressés au Vali qui soumet à la Sublime Porte les noms des personnes qu'il aura choisies, d'après les règles établies aux Articles précédents. Les élections sont confirmées par lettres Vizirielles.

Art. 78. Les quatre Conseillers des cazas de chaque sandjak se réunissent au chef-lieu du sandjak, un mois avant la convocation du Conseil-Général qui sera tenu chaque année au centre du vilayet, pour procéder à l'élection, sur la liste des habitants tant des chef-lieux du sandjak que de ces cazas, de trois personnes réunissant les conditions d'éligibilité des Conseillers et appelées à faire partie du Conseil-Général. Elles se rendent au siége du Gouvernement Central sur l'invitation du Mutessarif.

Les Conseillers des cazas, qui se sont rendus au chef-lieu du sandjak pour y élire les membres du Conseil-Général, leur remettent et font parvenir, par leur intermédiaire, au Vali, toutes les demandes des cazas relatives aux travaux d'utilité publique, à l'agriculture, au commerce, et autres matières pouvant faire l'objet des délibérations du Conseil.

Règlement sur l'Administration Générale des Vilayets du 2e Cheval, 1287.

Art. 90. Le vilayet dont il est parlé dans le Chapitre II et qui se rapportent à l'administration de l'Arrondissement sont du ressort de ce Conseil, à savoir, le contrôle, d'après les Règlements spéciaux, des recettes et dépenses de l'arrondissement; la revision des comptes des caisses d'épargne; la surveillance et la conservation des biens mobiliers et immobiliers du Gouvernement; l'examen, dans la limite de sa juridiction, des différends ayant entre les employés Gouvernementaux; la création des routes vicinales dans les cantons; l'adjudication des revenus publics et la conclusion des contrats et achats, qui sont, d'après les lois ou les ordres spéciaux du Gouvernement, du ressort du Mutessarifat. Les affaires qui, conformément à la loi, ne sont pas de la compétence du Mutessarifat sont référées au Conseil Administratif du vilayet.

Le Conseil délibère aussi sur les questions relatives à l'agriculture, au commerce, à l'instruction et aux travaux d'utilité publique, ainsi que sur les propositions tendant à fonder des institutions utiles et la santé publique. La question de la répartition dans les cantons et de la rentrée des impôts, dont, à la suite d'une décision du Gouvernement, il aura été chargé par le Conseil d'Administration du vilayet, ainsi que les documents que les Gouvernements des cantons lui adresseront relativement aux questions susmentionnées, font également l'objet des délibérations du Conseil.

Les décisions du ce Conseil sont enregistrées en Mazbatas qui sont transmis au Mutessarif.

Art. 91. La forme des délibérations, la rédaction des procès-verbaux, et le mode de procédure de ces Conseils sont déterminés dans les Articles du Chapitre II sous le titre "Dispositions Générales."

Art. 92. Les attributions de ce Conseil sont: le contrôle des recettes et dépenses du canton; la revision des comptes des caisses d'épargne; l'administration et la conservation de tous les biens mobiliers et immobiliers de l'Etat; la répartition dans les quartiers et villages des impôts, d'après les décisions du Conseil Administratif de l'arrondissement; la prise de toute mesure relative à la santé publique; l'examen, dans les limites de sa juridiction, des procès surgis entre les fonctionnaires publics; la construction de toutes vicinales dans les villages et les nahiés; l'adjudication des revenus publics et la conclusion des contrats et achats, dont le Caïmakam est directement autorisé par la loi ou en vertu d'un ordre spécial. Pour les affaires qui ne sont pas du ressort du Caïmakamat, il s'en réfère au Conseil d'Administration de l'arrondissement.

Le Conseil soumet au Caïmakam de l'arrondissement les Mazbatas contenant ses décisions.

Instructions relatives à l'Administration générale des Vilayets du 2e Muharrem, 1293.

Art. 38. Les Conseils d'Administration présidés par les Valis dans les vilayets, par les Mutessarifs dans les sandjaks, et par les Caïmacam dans les cazas, connaissent des affaires administratives concernant l'Etat et le pays. Leur devoir consiste à donner librement leur avis sur les affaires qui sont soumises à leurs délibérations conformément à la loi et à l'usage.

Art. 39. Les membres des Conseils d'Administration ne sont pas responsables d'une exécution contraire à leurs décisions. Ils doivent toutefois s'abstenir de tout abus dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions. La responsabilité résultant des actes exécutés, contrairement aux décisions des Conseils Administratifs ou de décisions annulées ou ajournées sans motifs, retombera sur les fonctionnaires chargés du Pouvoir Exécutif.

Art. 40. Dans le cas où les membres des Conseils d'Administration reconnaîtraient des irrégularités ou des injustices dans le service administratif, ils pourront communiquer, par un Rapport à la Sublime Porte, le résultat des constatations qu'ils auront effectuées, en se tenant dans les limites de la stricte justice. Tout individu qui serait l'objet de vexations exercées contre sa personne ou d'injustices commises contre ses intérêts, de la part d'un fonctionnaire public ou d'un simple particulier,

a le droit de s'en plaindre directement à la Sublime Porte. Toutefois, s'il est constaté que ces plaintes sont le résultat d'une animosité personnelle, le calomniateur sera passible des peines édictées par la loi.

CHAPITRE V.—ARTICLE 7.

Règlement sur l'Administration Générale des Vilayets du 2e Cheval, 1287.

Art. 94. Ces Conseils sont composés des membres des Démogeronties du nahié et des villages placés dans la circonscription du gouvernement du nahié. Chaque Démogerontie n'enverra dans le Conseil que quatre de ses membres au plus. Le Conseil est convoqué, à des époques fixées, dans le chef-lieu du nahié.

Art. 95. La durée de chaque session de ces Conseils ne peut pas dépasser une semaine. Ils sont convoqués quatre fois par an à des époques choisies et fixées par le Gouverneur-Général.

Le Mudir du nahié est le Président de ce Conseil.

Art. 96. Le Caïmacam, sur l'ordre du Gouverneur de l'Arrondissement, informe le Mudir du nahié du temps de la convocation du Conseil.

Art. 97. Le Mudir invite les membres qui doivent siéger dans ce Conseil et qui seront pris dans les Démogeronties des villages placés dans la circonscription du nahié et ouvre les débats. Le nombre des membres que chaque Démogerontie de village enverra au Conseil ne peut être plus de quatre.

Art. 98. Les décisions des Conseils du nahié sont prises à la pluralité des voix. En cas d'égalité des votes, la voix du Président forme la majorité.

Art. 99. Si les membres convoqués ne sont pas présents à l'époque fixée pour l'ouverture des séances, le Mudir peut en ajourner à une semaine l'ouverture. Ce délai passé, si les membres arrivés, par rapport au nombre des villages qui forment le nahié, constituent la majorité, c'est-à-dire si le nahié se compose par exemple de cinq villages et que trois des villages seulement ont envoyé leurs délégués, les débats peuvent être commencés.

Art. 100. Ces Conseils s'occupent des institutions d'utilité publique dont l'exécution est désirée et peut être obtenue avec le concours matériel et pécuniaire de la population des villages du nahié. Ils s'occupent également de la construction des routes entre les villages, ainsi que des questions relatives aux pâturages, aux forêts et bois appartenant en commun aux villages du nahié, et des questions que les Démogerontes des villages soumettront au Conseil relativement à l'agriculture, à l'industrie, et au commerce. La multiplication et la conservation des outils d'agriculture et des bêtes de labour ainsi que la salubrité publique et le règlement des affaires municipales communes entre les villages, sont aussi des devoirs de ces Conseils. Ils s'occupent en outre du contrôle des décisions des Démogérontes quant à la répartition des impôts, et ils examinent les demandes ayant trait à la modification de cette répartition.

Le résultat des débats du Conseil du nahié est transmis par le Mudir au Caïmacam du canton.

Art. 101. Les décisions prises au sein de ce Conseil ne sont pas exécutoires. Elles sont mises à exécution suivant que le Caïmacam en autorisera le Mudir.

Art. 102. La partie technique des travaux à exécuter, tels que routes vicinales, édifices publics et d'intérêt général, dont la création a été arrêtée par le Conseil du nahié et approuvé par le Gouvernement cantonal, regarde ce Gouvernement-ci. Sous ce rapport le Conseil du nahié n'intervient dans ces affaires que pour examiner les questions dont il serait saisi par le Gouvernement cantonal, et pour transmettre par l'intermédiaire du Mudir le résultat de ses délibérations à ce sujet.

Art. 103. Il est interdit aux Conseils des nahiés de statuer sur des procès, d'infliger des amendes et de se saisir de toute question en dehors des limites et de se saisir de toute question en dehors des limites de leurs attributions, prescrites dans les Articles précédents.

Art. 104. La partie des revenus municipaux du canton revenant aux nahiés, sera allouée à l'exécution des travaux d'utilité publique décidés par les Conseils des nahiés.

Le produit des offrandes et des dons des particuliers sera ajouté à la somme précitée et ce capital sera gardé dans le chef-lieu du nahié sous la surveillance des membres du Conseil Communal.

Art. 105. Les membres du Conseil à la clôture des débats de chaque session rentrent dans leurs villages respectifs.

Outre les réunions régulières le Mudir peut, sur l'invitation du Caïmacam et en cas d'une affaire urgente, convoquer en session extraordinaire les membres du Conseil, qui sont tenus à se rendre à l'invitation.

Art. 106. Les membres du Conseil ne peuvent se réunir à l'insu du Mudir ni s'entendre et provoquer des réunions communes avec les membres du Conseil d'un nahié voisin. Dans le cas contraire ils seront tenus responsables par-devant la loi.

Règlement sur l'Administration des Communes du 23 Muharrem, 1292.

Art. 1. Les villages, les fermes, et les maisons isolées dépendant de chaque district, formeront plusieurs cercles eu égard à leur situation portant le nom des cercles communaux.

Art. 2. Les cercles communaux se divisent en deux catégories; la première contient les cercles qui se composent d'un seul village et l'autre ceux qui comprennent de plusieurs villages. Les cercles

de la première catégorie seront composés de villages contenant plus de 200 maisons; ceux de la deuxième comprennent les villages et les quartiers contenant jusqu'à 200 maisons. Les villages contenant plus de cinquante maisons pourront former des cercles de la première catégorie, après avoir accompli les conditions énoncées dans le neuvième Article; toutefois les villages qui contiennent moins de cinquante maisons, ne pouvant former un cercle à part, seront annexés aux autres.

Art. 3. Il est entendu que les villages formant le cercle communal ne pourront être éloignés de l'endroit qui sera choisi comme chef-lieu que de trois heures au plus.

Art. 4. Aucun village ne pourra être annexé en parti à un autre cercle communal, quel que soit le nombre de ses habitants. En cas même qu'un village dépendant d'un caza se trouve situé près d'un autre caza, il ne pourra faire partie du cercle communal de ce dernier.

Art. 5. Si le cercle communal comprend un seul village, il prend le nom de ce village; mais quand il est composé de plusieurs villages, et d'autres habitations isolées, il prend le nom du plus grand, qui est aussi le chef-lieu du cercle; toutefois les villages compris dans le cercle ne pourront changer leurs noms.

Art. 6. Les propriétés immobilières, terrains, pâturages, et autres terres qui se trouvent dans le village compris dans le cercle communal des deux catégories susmentionnées ne subiront aucune modification, et resteront sous l'administration de ce cercle communal.

Art. 7. Chaque cercle communal aura un Mudir et un Conseil, composé de quatre membres au minimum et huit au maximum, élus par les habitants; l'un de ces membres exercera les fonctions de l'Adjoint du Mudir. Le Conseil aura en outre un Secrétaire.

Art. 8. Les villages compris dans les cercles communaux auront, comme par le passé, chacun un Mukhtar. Si un village contient plusieurs quartiers, et ses habitants sont divisés en différentes classes, il y aura un Mukhtar pour chaque quartier et pour chaque classe des habitants.

Art. 9. Les Mudirs et leurs adjoints, ainsi que les membres des Conseils des cercles communaux, exerceront, sans aucune rétribution, leurs fonctions; cependant, les habitants du cercle donneront annuellement une somme convenable aux Mudirs en compensation de leurs dépenses. Une somme convenable sera allouée annuellement au Secrétaire du Conseil, ainsi le montant des émoluments à donner chaque année, et le mode de leur répartition et perception seront contrôlés par les autorités supérieures du chef-lieu.

Art. 10. Les Mudirs et les membres du cercle communal devront être sujets Ottomans, avoir des intérêts dans la localité, être âgé à plus de 30 ans, et choisi parmi ceux qui paient une contribution annuelle à l'Etat de 100 piastres au minimum, et qui n'ont pas subi une condamnation.

Art. 11. Le Mudir du cercle doit savoir lire et écrire, mais comme ces Mudirs seront élus par les habitants, et jouiront conséquemment de leur confiance, ces derniers en seront garants et responsables. Après l'élection des Mudirs leur nomination sera approuvée par le Gouverneur-Général de vilayet, auquel le fait sera relevé par le Caïmacam et le Mutessarif.

Art. 12. Les Imams, les prêtres, les professeurs d'écoles, et tous ceux qui se trouvent au service du Gouvernement, ne pourront être élus Mudirs.

Art. 13. Si les habitants du cercle d'une commune sont d'une même classe, le Mudir, les membres, et l'Adjoint seront élus exclusivement parmi les habitants appartenant à cette même classe. Si le village contient des habitants mixtes, les membres du Conseil seront moitié Musulmans, moitié non-Musulmans. Le Mudir sera élu parmi la classe qui forme la majorité des habitants, et l'adjoint parmi l'autre classe.

Art. 14. Le Mudir et les membres du Conseil seront élus parmi les habitants qui ont les qualités énoncées dans les Articles 10 et 11; ainsi, si le cercle est composé d'un seul village, ses habitants se réuniront à un jour fixe et font l'élection du Mudir et des membres du Conseil; et si le cercle est composé de plusieurs villages, ceux des habitants de chaque village qui jouissent de la considération et de la confiance du public réunis au chef-lieu du cercle choisissent le Mudir et les membres du Conseil.

Art. 15. Le Mudir et les membres du Conseil dans leur première réunion choisiront par majorité de voix un Adjoint, qui en l'absence du Mudir exercera les fonctions de ce dernier; d'ailleurs il sera considéré comme les autres membres.

Art. 16. Les Mudirs seront changés tous les deux années, et les membres seront changés chaque année en moitié. Le Mudir et les membres pourront être réélus. Si les membres du Conseil sont moitié Musulmans et moitié non-Musulmans, ils seront aussi changés en moitié, et leurs successeurs seront pris parmi ceux qui appartiennent à leur classe.

Art. 17. Si le poste du Mudir et de membre reste vacant, pour accomplir le reste de leur service ils seront nommés à leur place ceux qui ont eu le plus de voix au moment de l'élection.

Art. 18. Les Mukhtars seront élus parmi les habitants indiqués et honnêtes de confiance et seront remplacés chaque année.

Art. 19. Si des plaintes étaient élevées contre un membre ou tout le Corps Administratif et ces plaintes étaient constatées par le Tribunal où seraient examinés, ces employés seront remplacés.

CHAPITRE V.—ARTICLE 11.

Règlement sur l'Administration des Communes.

Art. 10. Les Mudirs et les membres du cercle communal devront être sujets Ottomans, avoir des intérêts dans la localité, être âgé à plus de 30 ans, et choisis parmi ceux qui paient une contribution annuelle à l'Etat de 100 piastres au minimum, et qui n'ont pas subi une condamnation.

CHAPITRE V.—ARTICLE 14.

Règlement sur l'Administration des Communes.

Art. 20. Les Conseils des cercles se réuniront au moins deux fois par semaine.

Art. 21. Le Mudir est chargé de l'exécution sur l'avis du Conseil des ordres et instructions qui lui seront délivrés par le chef-lieu du district dont relève le cercle communal; il portera en outre à la connaissance des habitants les ordres supérieurs; il fera un Rapport et le transmettra au Caïmacam du district dont relève le cercle, dans lequel il mentionnera les demandes des habitants et le résultat des enquêtes préparatoires qu'il exécutera en cas qu'un crime aura été commis dans le village; il procédera aussi, avec le concours des habitants à l'arrestation des coupables de crime lorsqu'il n'y a pas des gendarmes dans ces endroits, et les enverra au chef-lieu du district.

Art. 22. Les Conseils Communaux auront à aviser aux moyens assurant le maintien des bons rapports parmi les habitants; pourront résoudre à l'amiable les procès civils de peu d'importance et procéder à la réconciliation en cas qu'une rixe aurait éclaté parmi les habitants. Cependant ils n'auront pas le droit de procéder à l'examen des procès du ressort des Tribunaux et d'arranger à l'amiable les procès concernant les crimes et les délits. Si l'on constatait l'apparition de brigands et de voleurs et qu'on aurait conséquemment besoin de force publique, les Mudirs des Conseils auront recours à la station militaire la plus proche, ou au chef de la gendarmerie qui sera installée conformément à l'Article 28.

Art. 23. Les Conseils Communaux ont aussi pour attribution de percevoir des contribuables et d'envoyer au Gouvernement les revenus du fisc; ils sont donc chargés d'encaisser ces revenus et de déposer la somme à la caisse du chef-lieu du district; s'ils rencontrent de difficultés dans la perception, ils auront recours au préposés des revenus du caza; en cas de non réussite de ces derniers, ils demanderont le concours du chef-lieu du caza.

Art. 24. Il y aura dans le chef-lieu de cercle communal un registre, dans lequel seront inscrits, d'après un Tableau envoyé du caza, les taxes, l'impôt de l'exonération militaire, les dîmes et autres contributions du chaque village.

Art. 25. Les Conseils Communaux feront tout leur possible pour encaisser à temps et intégralement les revenus du fisc des villages compris dans le cercle; à la fin de chaque année ils auront à rendre compte de tous les revenus ainsi que des sommes déposées à la caisse du caza.

Art. 26. Le Secrétaire du cercle communal est chargé aussi des affaires de la comptabilité; il est en outre autorisé de délivrer en cas de besoin des certificats revêtus du sceau des membres du Conseil pour des affaires autres que celles concernant la collection des revenus. Les Secrétaires seront admis au service après avoir donné un garant.

Art. 27. Les Conseils Communaux auront un sceau spécial.

CHAPITRE X.—ARTICLE 26.

Instructions relatives à l'Administration Générale des Vilayets.

Art. 11. Les Valis prendront, avant tout, les dispositions nécessaires pour constituer les Conseils dans la forme recommandée. Ils désigneront les Directeurs et les gardiens des prisons. Ils établiront ensuite, dans le chef-lieu des vilayets et des sandjaks, un Comité d'enquête préliminaire composé d'un Président et de deux membres Musulmans et non-Musulmans.

Art. 12. Ces Comités auront pour mandat de s'enquérir des causes qui ont motivé l'arrestation, par les zaptiés, des prévenus et d'ordonner qu'ils soient emprisonnés et interrogés, dans les cas où l'acte qui leur est attribué serait de nature à entraîner des pénalités édictées par la loi; de faire mettre immédiatement en liberté, sous caution, ceux dont la conduite ne motiverait pas l'application de la loi; de veiller à ce que personne ne soit retenu sans nécessité en prison.

No. 141.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 516.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 21, 1895, 10 A.M.

YESTERDAY my Austrian collegue gave me to understand that the Triple Alliance Powers would probably demand from the Porte an official communication of the Armenian reforms, and also claim the right of communicating with the Commission of Control through their Dragomans on the same footing as the other three Embassies.

He did not think that Austria, for her part, would make much use of the right, but she had a just claim to most-favoured-nation treatment.

I said that I did not think her right could be contested.

Baron Calice has throughout given a friendly support to the reform negotiations.

No. 142.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 517.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 21, 1895, 5·30 P.M.

I HAD an interview to-day with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Grand Vizier. The officials they think of for the Commission of Control are good. The present Governor of Smyrna, Hassan Fehmi, will very likely be President; he went some time ago on a mission to London. I was satisfied with their language as to the execution of the reforms.

No. 143.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 518. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 21, 1895, 7·25 P.M.

THE Grand Vizier admitted the gravity of the alleged discontent existing among Mussulmans, on my asking him about it to-day. He had represented the matter, but with little effect, as it seemed, to his Imperial Majesty. Great numbers of arrests are said to have been effected.

But I hear that the Moslem population have received the reforms, of which only parts have been published, favourably. They ask why all parts of the country should should not enjoy them equally.

No. 144.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 21).

(No. 519.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 21, 1895, 7·40 P.M.

I HAVE received a telegram from Mr. Russell, at the Dardanelles, on the subject of my telegram to your Lordship No. 495.

He says it is uncertain whether floating mines have been laid. They have nearly completed a masked battery of considerable strength on the hill not far from the Mejidieh fort, and have already got twelve cannon and mortar in position.

On the Asiatic side, at the Hamidie and Sultanie forts, and at the Namazie fort on this side, fresh torpedoes have been laid. Like the old ones, they are in iron cases.

The troops sent from Constantinople were artillery.

No. 145.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 187.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 21, 1895, 11 P.M.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 516 of the 21st instant stating that according to a communication made to you by your Austrian colleague the Governments of Austria, Germany, and Italy will probably claim the right of communicating with the Commission of Control in connection with the Armenian Reforms Act on the same footing as Great Britain, France, and Russia.

I approve your Excellency's reply on the subject to Baron Calice. If the claim is put forward by the three Powers, Her Majesty's Government will be ready to give it their support.

No. 146.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 22.)

(No. 520.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 22, 1895, 7·20 P.M.

WE have information that at Trebizond and Akhissar the Turks were encouraged by the military and police to massacre the Armenians, on the ground that the latter intended to attack the Mussulmans, and it is believed by many that the orders to do so were sent from the Palace.

To-day the Grand Vizier informed Mr. Marinitch that the Armenians at Andrin and Zeitoun, in the Vilayet of Aleppo, had attacked the Turks; that some of them were mounted and carried army rifles. He promised to communicate further details to-morrow.

The Armenians of Zeitoun and the neighbouring villages, like the Sasunlis, are mountaineers, and more formidable than most of their race, and I fear that the statements telegraphed to the Grand Vizier may be preliminary to a massacre.

Could the Admiral be authorized to send some ships to Alexandretta or one of the neighbouring ports in the event of matters getting worse?

I intend to warn the Grand Vizier to-morrow of the serious consequences of allowing further slaughter, but I think it would be advisable that the Powers should act in concert to prevent such a calamity.

No. 147.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 22.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, October* 22, 1895.

WITH reference to the telegrams received from your Lordship Nos. 63 and 64, I have the honour to report that Count Goluchowski being absent at Budapest, I have been informed by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that no instructions as to the intentions of the Powers composing the Triple Alliance to put forward this claim had been sent to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Constantinople, neither has there been any discussion between Berlin, Rome, and Vienna on this subject. Baron Calice has not telegraphed any from Constantinople referring to this question.

The personal opinion of the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is that the action which it is proposed to take is eminently desirable, and he believes that Count Goluchowski, who returns to Vienna the day after to-morrow, will concur in this view.

No. 148.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received October* 23.)

Downing Street, October 22, 1895.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, with reference to the letter from your Department of the 20th ultimo, a copy of a despatch from the Acting High Commissioner of Cyprus on the subject of the alleged export of arms and ammunition from Cyprus for Armenia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 148.

Administrator Young to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Confidential.) *Government Cottage, Mount Troodos, Cyprus, October 2, 1895.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch of the 31st July last transmitting a despatch received by the Marquess of Salisbury from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, regarding the alleged importation into Armenia of arms and ammunition from Cyprus, and requesting me to furnish you with any observations I have to offer with respect to the statements made in the Report of the United States' Consular Agent at Aleppo.

2. I have the honour to inform you that I have made careful inquiry into these statements, and, as regards the statement that about 300 Armenian workmen had arrived in Cyprus in search of work, and had since returned to their homes, the Report of the United States' Consular Agent does not say when they came to Cyprus, but I cannot find that any number of Armenian workmen have, within the past year, visited the island, and I cannot but believe that the information given to the United States' Consular Agent was incorrect.

3. It appears that about a year ago Armenians commenced to arrive in small parties by the Messageries steamer from Marseilles; some twenty-seven arrived in this way; they were well dressed, spoke English, and stated that they came from America.

4. During the winter a party of eighteen arrived from Beyrout by an Austrian Lloyd steamer, and others have from time to time been conveyed here by the same line; also, a number have arrived by the Bells steamers direct from Alexandria.

5. The exact number cannot be ascertained, as these Companies, and also the Knott's Princes Line, do not enter in their passenger lists the different nationalities; it is, however, calculated that probably from 100 to 150 have arrived within the past year, and it appears that most of these have now left the island.

6. The ostensible purpose given by these Armenians for visiting Cyprus is to ascertain, if possible, news of their relations and friends, as they are prohibited from landing in Asia Minor.

7. Mr. Ansell, the Acting Collector of Customs at Larnaca, the port where these Armenians have landed, gives reasons for considering that Cyprus has simply been used as a basis for obtaining information and distributing relief, and I attach an extract from his Report of the 22nd September, 1895, referring to this subject.

8. Sir Walter Sendall, by his Confidential despatch of the 4th June last, stated that it would be easy, without running the risk and trouble of landing and reshipment, for Cyprus boats to take on board arms and ammunition from vessels at sea, and I think it may be probable that Cyprus is made use of by the Armenians as a basis for this purpose, and also for the purposes mentioned in the previous paragraph, but I do not think that arms are actually smuggled into Cyprus for the purpose of being conveyed to the opposite coast.

9. Early in December last eight Armenians left Papho in a lighter avowedly bound for the port of Karovostassi, but it is stated that they were transhipped in the neighbourhood of that port into a smaller lighter and taken to the Karamanian coast; the vessel in which they sailed to Karamania was said to have been a small Cypriot lighter; it is not known whether she was loaded with arms; but if so, the arms must have been transferred to her from some vessel when out at sea.

10. Sir Walter Sendall, by his Confidential despatch of the 4th June last, informed you that a telegram had been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople stating that four boats, with fire-arms from Cyprus, had attempted to land on the coast between Alexandretta and Latakia, one of which, containing 400 rifles, had been seized, the others escaping; also that the Consul at Aleppo had telegraphed on the 2nd June last, that arms and ammunition had been landed from a sailing-vessel from Cyprus.

11. On further inquiry, it was, however, found that no actual seizure had taken place and that the information was premature.

12. Likewise, the statement made by the United States' Consular Agent to the effect that twenty Armenians, some from the United States and some from England, had met at Cyprus, and had sailed from there in a small boat which they had loaded

with arms, may possibly be based upon exaggerated information of the particulars given in paragraph 9 of this despatch.

(Signed) ARTHUR YOUNG.

Inclosure 2 in No. 148.

Extract from a Report of the Acting Collector of Customs, Larnaca, to the Chief Collector, Nicosia.

(Confidential.) *Custom-house, Larnaca, September 25, 1895.*

I MENTIONED in my last Report that I doubted whether any smuggling of arms or ammunition had taken place. My impression is that Cyprus has simply been used as the means of obtaining information and distributing relief. My reasons for so thinking are as follows:—

A Mr. Houssepain, watchmaker, who used rarely to be seen away from his shop, has, during the past year, and still does, pay frequent visits to the Pier, Customs, Post Office, and the Bank, generally in company with other Armenians. I am informed privately from the Bank that he has presented Bank of England notes of 100*l.* each, and that he receives drafts from Constantinople, &c., all of which are exchanged for gold.

A certain O'Lannes, who bought his discharge from the Police, has for months past made several voyages by steamers trading between Cyprus, the Syrian, and Caramanian coasts; his baggage is always well rummaged, and we have seen nothing suspicious about it. When not travelling, he never fails to be about when steamers are in, and frequently goes on board. The last occasion was when the "Dunkeld" was in, he went off immediately. Shortly afterwards some Armenians brought his baggage to the Customs, but O'Lannes returned from the steamer, and his baggage was taken back into the town.

I therefore assume that the money can only be used among the Armenians in Cyprus, or more likely in Turkey, through the medium of O'Lannes when travelling.

No. 149.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 521.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 23, 1895, 2:30 P.M.*

MR. HAMPSON telegraphs from Mush to-day that he considers the success of the relief work is now secure, and that the essential question now remaining is the protection of Armenians against the Kurds.

No. 150.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 522.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 23, 1895, 5:40 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 431 of the 26th September, the Foreign Minister states that, with a view to making arrangements for the arrest of the murderers of the Consuls, the Grand Shereef and the Vali of the Hedjaz intend to summon 120 Sheikhs to Mecca.

No. 151.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 523.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 23, 1895, 5·40 P.M.*

THREATENING letters have been addressed by Turks to the Minister of Marine, who is a tool of the Sultan. Guards have been placed round his house.

According to circumstantial reports which reach me from several sources, Mussulmans who have taken part in the agitation against the present system have been arrested and confined in the prisons at Yildiz, and it is positively asserted that many of them have been put to death secretly.

No. 152.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 524.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 23, 1895, 5·30 P.M.*

I MADE a representation to the Grand Vizier as to the situation at Rodosto, the Vice-Consul having reported that the Christians were in danger owing to the fanatical attitude of the Turks. His Highness has telegraphed to the Vali of Adrianople to take precautionary measures.

No. 153.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 525.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 23, 1895, 5·50 P.M.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 692 of the 17th instant respecting the Akhissar massacre, a Circular is sent to-day to the Ottoman Representatives abroad giving an entirely false account of the occurrence.

A Circular will also be sent on the affair at Erzinghian, where, according to the Grand Vizier, the Armenians attacked the Mussulmans, and sixty Turks and Armenians were killed in the affray, including the Imam. Military measures have been taken to prevent a recurrence of attacks.

No. 154.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 526.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 23, 1895, 5·30 P.M.*

THE Sultan has expressed concurrence with the views of the Grand Vizier and Foreign Minister as to the importance of selecting good men for the Reforms Commission. A Committee of Ministers for drawing up proposals will meet to-morrow.

No. 155.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 527.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 23, 1895, 6 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 520 of yesterday, Mr. Marinitch was informed this morning by the Grand Vizier that the Armenians of Zeitoun had made a raid in the Andrin district, carrying off cattle and property belonging to Turks, and that two gendarmes and thirty Mussulmans had been wounded. The Armenians were now collecting at Deredin, and their numbers daily growing. Mr. Marinitch

spoke strongly to the Grand Vizier in my name, and warned him against the danger of allowing further massacres. His Highness replied that he had urged the Armenian Patriarch to instruct the clergy at Zeitoun and Marash to give quieting advice, and expressed the hope that the publication of the reforms would calm the excitement in the provinces. I proposed to my colleagues to address a joint warning to the Porte, but they preferred to make separate representations.

No. 156.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 528.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 23, 1895, 6·15 P.M.*

MR. CUMBERBATCH telegraphs from Erzeroum that on Monday a disturbance occurred at Erzinghian, at which a few Mussulmans and about sixty Armenians were killed. The official version states that the conflict was started by an Armenian shooting a Mollah.

Bands of Lazes and of Kurds continue to pillage Armenian villages in the neighbourhood of Erzeroum, but things remain quiet in the town itself.

No. 157.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to the Marquess of Dufferin.**

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 23, 1895.*

WITH reference to my preceding telegram, repeating Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 520 of yesterday, I request you to communicate to the Government to which you are accredited what is stated by his Excellency as to the condition of affairs in the Vilayet of Aleppo, and to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Ambassadors of the other Powers will be instructed to join his Excellency in impressing upon the Porte the necessity of issuing the most stringent orders to the provincial authorities, with a view to prevent the repetition at Zeitoun or elsewhere of the shocking occurrences which have led all to the recent trouble.

The following is secret. The Admiralty will probably receive authority to detach vessels to the coast of the Vilayet of Aleppo, but nothing should be said about this at present.

No. 158.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 23, 1895.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,† reporting that disturbances had taken place between the Armenians and Turks at Zeitoun and Anderin, in the Vilayet of Aleppo, which his Excellency fears may lead to a massacre of the Armenians of Zeitoun and the vicinity, and suggesting that the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station should, in case of necessity, be authorized to send some ships to Alexandretta or one of the neighbouring ports.

I am to say that, in view of the critical state of affairs, Lord Salisbury is of opinion that authority should at once be given to the Admiral as recommended by Sir P. Currie.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

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* Also to Mr. Göschen (No. 208), Mr. Gosselin (No. 93), Sir Clare Ford (No. 50), and Sir E. Monson (No. 66).
† No. 146.

No. 159.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 529.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 24, 1895.*

I WAS granted an audience by the Sultan this morning on the occasion of my leaving for England.

His Majesty expressed a hope that Her Majesty's Government would be satisfied with the steps he had taken in the matter of Armenian reforms, and would consider that the question was now finally closed.

I observed, in reply, that a great deal would depend on the manner in which the reforms were carried out, and, in particular, I urged the necessity for the appointment of good and reliable men to the Governorships and to the Commission of Control.

His Majesty assured me that this would be done, and that the reforms would be carried out faithfully. He said that he hoped that Her Majesty's Government would show their good-will by expressing their approval publicly. He complained bitterly of the hostility of the English press, and said that such an expression of approval might have the effect of modifying it.

No. 160.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 530.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 24, 1895, 7 P.M.*

ACCORDING to the arrangement mentioned in my telegram No. 527 of yesterday's date, the Dragomans of the other Embassies to-day made representations to the Grand Vizier, and pointed out the urgent necessity of adopting measures to prevent further massacres at Zeitoun and other places. The Grand Vizier stated, in reply, that the precautions adopted had resulted in the re-establishment of tranquillity. No further news of disturbances had reached the Porte since yesterday. The Patriarch's advice had produced a good effect, and the well-affected Armenians had undertaken to hand over the disturbers of the public peace to the local authorities. The town of Aintab, in the Vilayet of Aleppo, had been illuminated on receipt of the news of the acceptance of the reforms. Some danger was, however, still to be apprehended from the Armenians collected at Deredin.

No. 161.

The Marquess of Dufferin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, October 24, 1895.*

I COMMUNICATED the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 141 of the 23rd instant to M. Hanotaux, who informed me that intelligence as to the events reported in Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 520 had not yet reached him. His Excellency added that the French Ambassador in Constantinople would receive instructions to continue to act with Her Majesty's Ambassador with the view of averting the dangers apprehended by your Lordship.

No. 162.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, October 24, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to the telegrams addressed to me by your Lordship Nos. 65 and 66, that Count Welsersheimb, the newly appointed Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, will at once inform Count Goluchowski of your Lordship's wishes by telegraph, as his Excellency is not expected in Vienna till late this evening.

Personally, Count Welsersheimb has no doubt that the instructions desired by your Lordship will be sent to Baron Calice.

For the last two days no telegrams have been received from Constantinople by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

No. 163.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, October 24, 1895.*

INSTRUCTIONS will be sent at once by Prince Lobanoff to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople in the sense desired in your Lordship's telegram No. 208.

No. 164.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 359.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 24, 1895.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatches Nos. 681 and 685 of the 15th and 16th instant respectively, reporting your audience of the Sultan, and the communication made to you by Marshal Zeki Pasha respecting the question of Armenian reforms.

I approve your Excellency's language on the subject to the Sultan and to Marshal Zeki Pasha, and your refusal to make any communication to His Imperial Majesty relative to reforms except in concert with your French and Russian colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 165.

Acting Consul Allan to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 25.)

(No. 74. Confidential.)
Sir, *Jeddah, October 14, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 67 of the 16th ultimo,* I have the honour to state that, not having received any reply to my communication to the Vali, referred to in the above despatch, and no fresh action on his Excellency's part, as regards the arrest of the assassins of Dr. Abdur Razzack, having been reported to me, I requested by telegraph on the 27th ultimo a reply to my letter, a request which I repeated on the 29th ultimo. On the evening of the same day I received a telegram from his Excellency, stating that his letter of the 18th August last, referred to in my despatch No. 61 of the 29th August, was a sufficient reply to my communication.

On receipt of this reply, which I considered unsatisfactory and hardly courteous, I requested your Excellency by telegraph for further instructions, as it seemed useless to continue to press the matter here under these circumstances.

* Not received at Foreign Office.

I may here state incidentally, that not only I myself, but my colleagues are seldom able to obtain replies from Ratib Pasha to our letters, when they deal with subjects of any importance, until we have pressed him by telegraph for a reply, and that he not infrequently contents himself with replying by telegraph only to our written communications. During the whole of his career in the Hedjaz, Ratib Pasha has been discourteous in this respect, as well as in all his relations with the Consular corps, some of the members of which he has on more than one occasion treated with marked incivility.

After dispatching my telegram to your Excellency of the 1st instant, I learned that on the 27th ultimo a Mission composed of the Shereef Aoon-bin-Nasser, a cousin of the Grand Shereef, and other Shereefs and Sheikhs had been sent by the Grand Shereef to the district of Asfan, to which the reputed murderers belong, and I reported in this sense in my telegram of the 2nd instant. These Envoys were instructed to endeavour, by means of fair promises, to induce the Harb Sheikhs of that district, and especially the murderers and their families, to proceed to Mecca. On the arrival of the Envoys they are said to have at once assembled a number of Sheikhs of the Harb tribe, and to have prevailed upon them by the strongest promises of security to consent to proceed to Mecca. The reputed assassins, with their relatives, had withdrawn further towards the north, where they are said to be under the protection of Bin Rahek, an important Chief of the Harb tribe. Among them is the Shereef Hamed-bin-Nefaa, referred to in Mr. Acting Consul Lamb's despatch No. 53 of the 30th July last, who is reported to have been the instigator and ringleader of the attack on the Consuls. The Envoys having sent repeated messages to him, begging him to meet them, and promising him freedom from molestation, Bin Nefaa finally came, accompanied by about 150 armed men. He emphatically refused to accompany the Envoys to Mecca, declaring that he put no faith in the promises of the Grand Shereef and Vali.

The Envoys then returned to Mecca, where they arrived on the 6th instant accompanied by a large number of Sheikhs, with their families and attendants, numbering, it is said, about 300. According to information which I have now received, and which I communicated to your Excellency in my telegram of to-day's date, these Sheikhs declared that it was impossible for them to induce Hamed-bin-Nafaa to come to Mecca, and the Grand Shereef finally proposed that they should return and endeavour to persuade him to do so on condition that an important Emir of the Oteyba, the Grand Shereef's, tribe should be sent as a hostage for his safety. The Sheikhs, who were to leave Mecca on the night of the 12th instant, are to inform the Shereef of the result within fifteen days.

The object of the Grand Shereef is probably to personally persuade Hamed-bin-Nefaa and the other alleged murderers to give themselves up for trial by promising that the proceedings shall be a mere farce, but it is quite improbable that they will consent to do so unless an equal number of hostages be given for their safety. That the Grand Shereef expects to succeed, or that he has at any time been, or is now in earnest in his seeming attempts to arrest the assassins is not believed by any person here who is in a position to understand the affairs of this province, and the futility of the mission to Asfan was commented on as soon as the departure of the Envoys was known. As regards the last alternative of his scheme, an armed expedition, it is probable that unless his camelmen are well supported by regular troops, and the enemy are hemmed in on the northern side, they will escape to the north or north-east without waiting to be attacked.

Mr. Consul Richards, in his despatch No. 45 of the 17th June last, has sketched the different theories current as to the motives and object of the outrage of the 30th May. The truth, which was even then shrouded in mystery, becomes more obscure as time passes, and will probably never be exactly known. Broadly speaking, however, these different theories present two alternatives. In the first, the outrage was instigated by, or committed with, the knowledge and approval of the Grand Shereef; in the second, it was a demonstration against his exactions (in which he was supported by the local authorities), or was committed in order to bring about his dismissal. In either case the trial of the culprits would not suit the Grand Shereef, and this is shown by his evident unwillingness to take action except under great pressure. I venture to submit that the steps taken up to the present moment might have been carried out in less than half the time which has elapsed since the murder of Dr. Abdur Razzack, and to respectfully suggest that pressure be put upon the Grand Shereef to carry out the rest of his plan without further delay, and that in the event of its failure he be deprived of his high office, and that one of his brothers, Abdullah or Hussein (either of whom would, I believe, be preferable to the present Grand Shereef), be appointed in his stead.

I have the honour to state that the principal persons among those who are alleged to have taken part in the attack on the Consuls are:—

The Shereef Hamed-bin-Nefaa, Sheikh Ali Zeidi, the son of Sheikh Abdullah-bin-

Messaoud, Sheikh Bin Zaria; all of whom belong to the Sahaf sub-division of the Harb tribe.

The most important of the Sheikhs who accompanied the Shereef Aoon-bin-Nasser's Mission to Mecca were:—

Muthabbit-el-Sahafy, Abu Ahmed-el-Hagmy, Bin Mahet-el-Monbbady, Dakhil Allah-el-Hummany, Atallah-el-Jahiri.

The last names note the sub-divisions of the Harb tribe to which the Sheikhs belong. In addition to the above there were also Sheikhs of the Garaghera and Izra sub-tribes, whose names I have been unable to ascertain.

In view of your Excellency's telegram of the 2nd instant, and of the facts reported above, I shall not, for the present, correspond further on the subject with the Vali, but will watch events and report them to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 166.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October 25.*)

(No. 304.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 22, 1895.*

I CALLED this morning on Baron Pasetti, who, in the absence of Count Goluchowski at Budapest, has been carrying on the business at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and communicated to him the substance of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 63 and 64 of yesterday's date.

Baron Pasetti said that Baron Calice had acted on his own initiative in his intimation to Sir P. Currie that the Powers composing the Triple Alliance would probably claim the right of having the reforms officially made known to them and of communicating with the Commission of Control, through the Dragomans of their Embassies, on the same footing as Great Britain, France, and Russia. Baron Calice had not reported his having done this as yet, but would undoubtedly do so by next messenger. In the absence of Count Goluchowski, Baron Pasetti said that he must limit himself to giving his own personal opinion that it would be desirable that all the Great Powers should be on the same footing in regard to the right of communicating with the Commission of Control.

I answered that I expected that there would be a general agreement on this head; and asked the Baron whether there had been any discussion on this subject between the Cabinets of Vienna, Berlin, and Rome.

His Excellency replied in the negative, and concluded the conversation by expressing his admiration of the way in which British diplomacy had carried the day, in the face of overt and covert obstacles.

My interview with Baron Pasetti was necessarily brief, as I interrupted him in the task of handing over his charge to Count Welsersheimb, his successor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I shall send a copy of this despatch by messenger to-morrow to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 167.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October 25.*)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, October 25, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to my telegram No. 74, that the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople has received instructions from Count Goluchowski in the sense desired by your Lordship.

No. 168.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 25.)

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, October* 25, 1895.

ON being asked by Count Goluchowski whether our fleet would, for the present, remain at the Island of Lemnos, I stated to his Excellency, in reply, that there was, I believed, no question of withdrawing it at the present moment.

I am authorized by his Excellency to tell your Lordship, in the strictest confidence, that the greatest importance is attached by him to the squadron being kept, for the present, at or in the immediate neighbourhood of the station now occupied by it.

No. 169.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 25.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, October* 25, 1895.

WITH reference to the despatch No. 98 addressed to me by your Lordship on the 16th instant, I have the honour to report that Count Goluchowski has declared his entire satisfaction with the assurances given by your Lordship to the Austrian Ambassador, to the effect that no change of policy in the Mediterranean is meditated by Her Majesty's Government.

I think he feels his responsibility heavily, and that he has been very nervous over recent events, although he affirms that he, personally, had never believed in the change of policy in question, but that he had wished to be in a position to reassure others who did.

He again repeated to-day his anxiety that Austria-Hungary should act in entire community with England, and I reaffirmed that your Lordship's sentiments on this head were reciprocal.

No. 170.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received October* 26.)

Sir, *Admiralty, October* 25, 1895.

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd October inclosing copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting that disturbances have taken place between the Armenians and Turks at Zeitoun and Anderin, in the Vilayet of Aleppo, which his Excellency fears may lead to a massacre of the Armenians, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to the Marquess of Salisbury that the Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean has been authorized by telegram to send ships to Alexandretta, or one of the neighbouring ports, if the Ambassador represents it as necessary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 171.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 532.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 26, 1895, 6·20 P.M.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush telegraphs that serious disorders took place in Bitlis yesterday, but that no details have as yet reached him. He adds that the situation in Mush is critical, and that no confidence is felt in the soldiers. However, the new Mutessarif authorizes him to say that he will guarantee that no disturbances shall be begun from the side of the Mussulmans.

No. 172*.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) *P.* *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1895.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 77 of yesterday informing me that Count Goluchowski has declared himself entirely satisfied with the assurances which I gave to Count Deym in regard to the policy of Her Majesty's Government in the Mediterranean, and has expressed his anxiety for entire community of action between Austria-Hungary and Great Britain.

The language which you held to his Excellency, in reply, quite correctly represents the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government, who are very anxious that their future policy should be agreeable to Austria, as they trust their past policy has been.

No. 172.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 533.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 26, 1895, 7 P.M.

THE Grand Vizier to-day stated that at Marash, in the Vilayet of Aleppo, the Armenians had attacked the patrols in the streets and killed some Mussulmans; in the Vilayets of Erzeroum and Bitlis they were making attacks on the Moslem population, provoking retaliation on the part of the latter. At Bitlis they had attacked the mosques during the hour of prayer, but no details were to hand.

I cannot but regard with suspicion the marked similarity in the reports received from the authorities in different parts of the Asiatic provinces, all accusing the Armenians of taking the initiative.

His Highness added that the Sublime Porte had taken preventive measures, and had given orders to call out some Reserves in the six vilayets.

He had requested the Patriarch to address a Circular to his clergy instructing them to restrain the people, but his Beatitude made his consent conditional on the publication of the reforms.

His Highness asked me to urge the Patriarch to send a Circular at once.

No. 173.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 360.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1895.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 684 of the 16th instant, reporting the steps taken to prevail on the Armenians, who had taken refuge in the various churches in Constantinople after the recent disturbances, to disperse and return to their homes, and the successful result of their proceedings.

Your Excellency's action in this matter has my entire approval, and I request that you will express to Mr. Marinitch my satisfaction at the manner in which he discharged the difficult duty instrusted to him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 174.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 361.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1895.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 693 of the 17th instant forwarding a copy of a Report by Mr. Lister on the state of the prisons in Constantinople, and the treatment of the Armenian prisoners.

I request you to convey my thanks to Mr. Lister for this Report, which has been read with interest.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 175.

Said Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(Communicated by Rustem Pasha, October 27.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 26 *Octobre*, 1895.

LE Gouverneur-Général de Bitlis nous télégraphie que, dans la journée d'hier, les Arméniens ont attaqué, les armes à la main, les mosquées de la ville au moment même où tous les Musulmans s'y trouvaient réunis pour la prière du Vendredi.

Les Musulmans, surpris par cette attaque, et sans armes, durent défendre leurs vies contre leurs agresseurs en se servant de pierres et de bâtons.

Les autorités prévenues de ces faits envoyèrent immédiatement dans tous les quartiers de la ville des détachements de police, de gendarmerie, et de soldats pour rétablir l'ordre et la tranquillité.

Une partie des Arméniens se sont barricadés dans les Khans et ont continué à se servir de leurs armes.

Pendant la bagarre il y a eu des morts et des blessés des deux côtés.

No. 176.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 534.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 27, 1895, 2·45 P.M.*

IN reply to my inquiries, Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs that he will ascertain as soon as possible whether it was the Armenians who were the aggressors at Marash; as yet he has no direct information on the subject.

It is also reported at Aleppo that there have been disturbances at Zeitoun, but Mr. Barnham has received no details as yet. It is said that some Reserves have also been called out in the Vilayet of Aleppo.

No. 177.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 535.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 27, 1895.*

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush telegraphs that he believes the news contained in his telegram of the 25th October is correct, but that till last night no further news had been received from Bitlis, as the telegraph wires had been cut. In Mush, so far, there had been no disorder, but the situation was most critical, and all the shops were shut.

Mr. Hampson has urged the Mutessarif to issue orders that no one shall carry arms in the town, but the latter again assures him that there will be no disorder.

The Vali of Bitlis has telegraphed to the Mutessarif viâ Van that things are quieter, and advised him to take precautions to prevent any trouble in Mush or Boulanik.

No. 178.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 536.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 27, 1895, 5·15 P.M.*

THE Mussulman agitation mentioned in my telegram No. 523 of the 23rd instant continues. I hear from a reliable source that proofs have come into the hands of the authorities that the agitators contemplate joint action against the Palace with the Armenian Hintchâk Society, with whom they are in communication.

No. 179.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 537.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 27, 1895.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Trebizond telegraphs that there were disturbances at Gumush-Khane the day before yesterday, but he cannot ascertain the number of the killed.

No. 180.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 240.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 26, 1895.*

ON the receipt of the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 92 and 93 of the 23rd instant, I called on Baron von Marschall, and informed his Excellency of the serious state of affairs in the Vilayet of Aleppo.

Baron von Marschall said that he had not received any information from the German Ambassador as to the state of affairs in that special district, but that, some ten days ago, his Excellency had reported that he considered the situation throughout the whole Ottoman Empire as grave, the more so as the agitation was no longer confined to the Christian population, but seemed to be spreading among the Mussulman subjects of the Sultan.

Baron von Marschall promised to telegraph at once to his Excellency instructing him to report immediately on the matter, and, if the news were confirmed, to act in concert with the other Ambassadors in order to prevent, as far as possible, any repetition of the massacres.

I was unable to see Baron von Marschall this morning, as his Excellency has accompanied the Emperor to Leipzig; but Baron von Rotenhan informed me that the Foreign Office had received no telegrams from Constantinople during the last few days, and that the German courier, who was on his way home with despatches, had been delayed by floods, and was not expected to reach Berlin till the 30th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 181.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 308.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 26, 1895.*

NOT having seen Count Goluchowski for ten days in consequence of his absence in Hungary, I called upon him yesterday, and spoke to him upon the instructions telegraphed to me by your Lordship on the 23rd instant in regard to the common action of the Ambassadors of the Great Powers at Constantinople in warning the Porte not to allow the renewal of massacres.

His Excellency said that, in consequence of my communication to Count Welsersheimb (the new Under-Secretary of State or First Chief of Section, as is the title given here to the immediate subordinate of the Minister for Foreign Affairs), the desired orders had been at once telegraphed to Baron Calice.

Count Goluchowski proceeded to say that, although the concessions obtained by England, France, and Russia are well enough in their way, they can only serve to dissipate for the moment the most pressing of the dangers, to the existence of which it is impossible for the Powers to close their eyes.

It is essential that the Sultan and his Government should take steps for the

amélioration of the condition of Macedonia, otherwise troubles are certainly to be xpected in that province in the spring, and the contingency of their occurrence cannot but be viewed by the Austro-Hungarian Government with the greatest apprehension.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 182.

Morel Beg to Foreign Office.—(Received October 28.)

Cher Sir Thomas, 1, *Bryanston Square, Londres, le 28 Octobre*, 1895.

RUSTEM PACHA me charge de vous envoyer, pour votre information, la copie ci-jointe d'un télégramme qu'il a reçu ce matin de la Sublime Porte, et qui annonce de nouveaux conflits entre Musulmans et Arméniens.

Bien sincèrement à vous.
(Signé) G. MOREL.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Said Pasha to Rustem Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 27 Octobre*, 1895.

LES Arméniens continuent leurs tentatives criminelles partout où ils le peuvent en attaquant sans aucune provocation les populations Musulmanes.

Avant-hier, c'était à Bitlis que les émeutiers attaquaient les Musulmans dans leurs mosquées au moment de la prière du Vendredi. Hier, c'était à Baïbourt, à Zeitoun, et à Marache que d'autres émeutes ont éclaté.

En effet, suivant un télégramme du Commandant Militaire et du Caïmacam, une dizaine de coups de feu ont été tirés du quartier Arménien de Baïbourt sur des Musulmans, dont plusieurs furent mortellement atteints.

A la vue des cadavres de leurs coreligionnaires, les Musulmans fermèrent leurs boutiques et coururent aux armes pour défendre leurs vies.

Il y a eu pendant l'échauffourée des morts et des blessés des deux côtés.

Les autorités locales ont envoyé immédiatement des détachements de police, de gendarmes, et de soldats pour rétablir la tranquillité, et elles sont parvenu à calmer l'agitation de la population Musulmane.

No. 183.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 539.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 28*, 1895, 7 P.M.

SIR P. CURRIE has requested the Consuls concerned to send a telegraphic report on the statements of the Porte that the Armenians in the Provinces of Bitlis, Erzeroum, and Aleppo were attacking the Mahommedans.

No. 184.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 541.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 28*, 1895, 7·50 P.M.

IN reply to P. Currie's instructions, reported in my telegram No. 539 of to-day's date, Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond telegraphs that there is no reason to believe that the Armenians in that town contemplated an attack on the Mussulmans, though it is probable that it was Armenians who attacked Bahri Pasha on the 2nd instant.

As, however, an Armenian Revolutionary Committee undoubtedly exists in Trebizond which advocates violence, it is possible that some Armenians may have written and spoken about creating disturbances in the event of the reforms being rejected, and some of them may even have acted rashly.

No. 185.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 542.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 28*, 1895, 7·55 P.M.

IN reply to Sir P. Currie's instructions, as reported in my telegram No. 539 of to-day's date, the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum telegraphs that the Armenian Revolutionary Committees have recently sent agents to these parts from Russia and from Constantinople, viâ Trebizond, with the undoubted object of provoking disturbances wherever possible, but that the community in general disapprove of this.

Mr. Cumberbatch considers that the disturbances which have occurred at Erzinjan and Trebizond support this view.

News had also reached Erzeroum of troubles at Bitlis which had been similarly provoked. There an Armenian armed band had made an attack on the Mussulmans while gathered together in prayer at the mosque.

At Baïburt also some Armenians fired yesterday from their houses on peaceable Turks. Both there and at Bitlis there had been serious fighting in consequence, but Mr. Cumberbatch had received no details.

If necessary the Reserves were to be called out, but so far this had not been done anywhere except at Erzinjan.

No. 186.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 543.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 28*, 1895, 8 P.M.

VICE-CONSUL HAMPSON has telegraphed to me, with reference to my telegram to your Lordship of to-day No. 539, that the authorities say that the affair at Bitlis began by the Armenians attacking the mosques. He thinks this most improbable, and says that the Armenians at Mush are in a terrible panic, and have certainly no idea of attacking Mussulmans, nor does he believe in its existence elsewhere.

He has urged Armenians to reopen shops to-morrow. He adds that no further details have reached him from Bitlis, but the Mutessarif repeats that he thinks that at least 500 were killed.

No. 187.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 544.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 28*, 1895, 11 P.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs that he hears that the attitude of the Armenians at Ourfa is threatening, and that it is rumoured that there are disturbances there. He is making inquiries.

No. 188.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October 28.*)

(No. 545.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 28, 1895.*

MR. HAMPSON telegraphs from Mush that he has received information from Bitlis that the Mussulmans, on coming out of the mosques last Friday, attacked the Armenians; that 630 persons were killed.

This information, he says, tallies with what he knew respecting the plans of the Mussulmans for the previous Friday, which were, however, frustrated.

The Mussulmans and Kurds in Mush were still carrying arms, the authorities asserting that they were in fear of attacks from the Christians.

From what he hears on all sides, Mr. Hampson fears that the Kurds are rising to join in an attack on the Armenians, which he thinks would create a most serious situation.

No. 189.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October 28.*)

(No. 546.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 28, 1895, 8 P.M.*

MR. DRUMMOND HAY telegraphs to-day from Beyrout that the Mussulman excitement has decreased, and the population has been tranquillized by the publication of the news by the Vali that the Sultan intends to introduce reforms in Armenia, and to extend them for the purpose to other provinces.

No. 190.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October 28.*)

(No. 547.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 28, 1895, 11·15 P.M.*

I WAS informed to-day by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Armenians have been the aggressors in the disturbances which he tells me have taken place at Marash, Zeitoun, Bitlis, Gumush-Khane, Baibourt, and Kurpout. He stated that at Bitlis the Mussulmans had been attacked by the Armenians while in the mosques; 173 Mussulmans and 179 Armenians had been killed and wounded.

Fresh troubles are apprehended from Zeitoun, where a band of 2,000 Armenians killed five gendarmes and their Commander, and also from Baibourt, but order has been restored in the other places.

No. 191.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October 29.*)

(No. 697.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 21, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 631 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Damascus, giving further information respecting the disturbance at Shaghoor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 191.

Acting Consul Meshaka to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Damascus, September 26, 1895.*

IN continuation of my despatch of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report that one of the four wounded gendarmes died, and that the local authorities have been in search of the culprits, but none have as yet been arrested. It is believed that the Government intends to treat the case leniently, and to let it die by the lapse of time. The Chief of the Police, however, in consequence of the various complaints made against him for his ill-administration and unfitness, has lately been removed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASIF MESHAKA.

No. 192.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October 29.*)

(No. 699.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 21, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting the murder of the Assistant Procureur-Général of Chorourn by Armenian highwaymen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 192.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, October 12, 1895*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of your Excellency, that a short time ago the Assistant Procureur-Général of Chorourn, in the Sandjak of Yuzgat, whilst proceeding to Sivas with his family, and accompanied by the Director of a branch office of the Régie, was waylaid and murdered by a band of Armenians armed with rifles. The Régie official was wounded in the knee, but received no other injury, and was allowed to continue his journey.

The Sivas authorities, upon hearing of the outrage, lost no time in dispatching a force of nine zaptiehs, under the command of a Mulazim, in pursuit of the highwaymen, with orders to bring them in dead or alive. The band was overtaken, and a sharp fight ensued, in which the Mulazim and seven of his men were killed, the other two being severely wounded.

Nothing definite is known here as to the motive for the attack upon the Assistant Proctor; he is believed, however, to have been instrumental in the condemnation, at various times, of a large number of Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 193.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 706.)

Constantinople, October 21, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, forwarding copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the subject of certain observations of the Grand Vizier upon cases of ill-treatment of Armenians reported by Mr. Hallward.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 193.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, September 24, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the subject of the Grand Vizier's observations, contained in your Excellency's despatch to Mr. Hallward of the 16th ultimo, upon certain cases reported by the latter in the inclosures to my despatch of the 31st July.

Although it is a matter of comparatively small importance, there can be little doubt that Mr. Hallward was right in stating that orders were sent from Constantinople for the priests imprisoned at Van to be sent there. Other ecclesiastics imprisoned at different places in Erzeroum and Bitlis were sent to Constantinople about the same time, and it is difficult to attribute this to a coincidence, or to explain why the local authorities should have simultaneously taken this measure on their own initiative.

There should be nothing surprising to the Porte in the imprisonment or annoyance of Armenians who had visited Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van. I have repeatedly called attention to the imprisonment of numerous Armenians at Bitlis for having communications with Mr. Hallward during his visit there last October. The experience also of the Consular Delegates at Mush is conclusive enough on this head; and I may add that for years past the leading Armenians of Erzeroum have ceased to visit the foreign Consulates in consequence of the annoyance to which they were subjected by the police, whose agents note and report every such visit to their superiors. Only the other day the Armenian Archbishop here was called upon by the Vali to answer a number of questions, the terms of which, he was given to understand, had been telegraphed by the Grand Vizier himself. One of those was, whether it was true that he had sent a present of cakes to the Italian Consul, M. Monaco, and the question was put in such a way as to suggest that this civility was highly reprehensible.

Abuses of authority by Turkish officials are, I trust, but seldom reported by Consular officers without ample grounds, which are in nowise invalidated when the Grand Vizier, relying upon the data supplied by the principal offenders themselves, declares that the stories are devoid of foundation. The Memorandum of the ex-Grand Vizier, copy of which was inclosed in your Excellency's despatch of the 23rd May, 1894, denying the truth of the late Mr. Boyajian's and my reports on the earlier disturbances in Talori, and declaring that, thanks to the prompt measures taken by the Government, perfect tranquillity had been restored, is a good case in point; for this ready acceptance by the Porte of Tahsin Pasha's assurances was followed within three months by the massacres of Sasun.

In conclusion, I have long held, with Mr. Hallward, that the removal of the principal Kurdish malefactors must be a first step towards reform in these provinces, though the notorious denial of justice at the trial of Moussa Bey makes me doubt the value of his suggestion that they be put on their trial at Constantinople. A summary execution, after trial by court-martial, would be the fitting reward for the crimes of Hussein Pasha and his like; and failing this, they should be exiled for life, by administrative order, to a safe distance from the districts which they have so long terrorized with impunity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 193.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Van, September 17, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to receive a Memorandum, inclosed in a despatch dated the 16th ultimo from Her Majesty's Embassy, containing observations made by the Grand Vizier on certain cases reported in my despatches Nos. 57, 58, and 59, addressed to you.

The Grand Vizier states that no orders were issued from Constantinople for priests imprisoned in Van to be sent there. The fact remains, however, that all the priests in prison in Van, viz., the four mentioned in my despatch of the 16th April last, were sent to Constantinople; and it is obvious that this could not have been done on the Vali's initiative without superior orders.

The statement that Arshag Kaljian was imprisoned for intoxication is absurd. In the first place, he is not addicted to drink; and, in the second place, he was distinctly given to understand by the police that the cause of his imprisonment was his visit to me, as stated in my despatch.

My assertion that Bedros Kapamadjian was threatened with imprisonment, and that he paid a bribe to the Chief of Police, was not unfounded, and I still adhere to it. In this connection I may add that a long complaint has been addressed to the new Vali against that official for many acts of robbery and oppression committed against the Armenians.

The complaints of the peasants of the Arjish District reached me from a trustworthy source. At the same time, I gladly take this opportunity of stating that I have heard of very much fewer complaints of robbery or burning of grain by the Kurds than I did last year. I attribute this change almost entirely to the dismissal of Bahri Pasha. Very shortly after his dismissal was known here there was a great fall in the price of grain in the town. This was due to the fact that he had artificially raised the price by preventing grain being brought to the town, in order that the tithes might be sold at a high price. The Kurds in the outlying districts have also been rather quieter, as they had always been supported and instigated by Bahri Pasha, and they are waiting to see what the policy of the new Vali will be with regard to them.

Acts of violence and robbery, however, still continue in the province. A certain Malik Atu, an Armenian, of Zirekli, in the Adeljevaz district, formerly the wealthiest man of that caza, lately fled with all his family, consisting of some thirty souls, to the village of Norshen, having been repeatedly plundered last year and this year by Haideranli Kurds, men who are under the orders of the notorious Hussein Pasha, of Patnotz. About a month ago, he and some other Armenians were taken by Resoul, a nephew of Hussein Pasha, to Yekmal, subjected to various indignities, and very severely beaten. On his return to Zirekli he left his house and lands and went to Norshen, a village about two hours distant.

I had the honour to mention in my despatch of the 19th March that many Armenian families had fled from that district. No real improvement can be looked for unless Hussein Pasha and Emin Pasha are either brought to justice or expelled from the country. I need scarcely say that to summon these men before the local Courts would be utterly futile: no one would give evidence against them, nor would the Judges be likely to convict them. The only chance of convicting them would be by summoning them to be tried at Constantinople, on the understanding that in any case they were not allowed to return to their own country. If these men, and a few other of the principal Kurdish malefactors, such as Derboz Khan of the Khoshab Caza, Hussein Bey Takouri, and Mehemet Agha of Shattukh, were got rid of, and such criminals as Shakir of Nordiz and Jindi of Hajji Kishla, and others, were brought to justice, an immense effect would be produced on the Kurds, and there would be some hope of peace and quietness for the Armenians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 194.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October 29.*)

(No. 701.)

Therapia, October 21, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a report which I have received from Mr. Longworth, Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, respecting the massacre of Armenians which occurred at Trebizond on the 8th instant.

I also inclose another account which I have received from a missionary resident at Trebizond, which, as your Lordship will perceive, estimates the loss of life at much the same figure as Mr. Longworth.

I have approved Mr. Longworth's conduct.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 194.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, October 9, 1895, 10 P.M.

Sir,

MY yesterday's and to-day's telegrams have not, I hope, been delayed in transmission. The Austrian steamer for Batoum, as the Russian for Constantinople, is still in port, so that I have not been able to report the disturbance through Mr. Stevens.

Our apprehensions of an attack were unhappily realized yesterday by a massacre of the Armenians, which commenced at 10·30 A.M. and ended at 6 P.M.

I am not yet sure what started it. The authorities are under the impression that an Armenian at a khan in the European quarter lost control over himself, and discharged his revolver at some soldiers in the street on receiving a letter announcing his brother's death in the disturbances at Constantinople.

Almost at once hundreds of armed Turks filled the streets, rushing madly about, and slaughtering every Armenian they could meet. The troops, it seems, joined them at first, and then, aided by Greeks and Persians, they proceeded deliberately and systematically to break open and loot the Armenian houses, shops, and store-rooms throughout the town, killing those who offered the least resistance.

Few women and children were killed, and it was so well organized that the butchery was conducted with discrimination as to race.

There is no knowing as yet the number of killed and wounded, but, in all probability, it is not much above 500, for most of the 7,000 Armenians (in a population of 20,000 Turks and 15,000 Greeks) saved themselves by escaping into Consulates and public buildings guarded by the authorities.

Six only took refuge here, as it was believed that this Consulate would be first attacked, owing to some bad characters having spread the report that not only are the two would-be assassins in the affair of the 2nd instant harboured by me, but that Great Britain is contemplating the formation of an independent Armenia.

In the beginning of the outbreak I was outside the Consulate, but the gun that was aimed at me did not go off. My Dragoman was fired at but missed, while one of my cavasses was nearly hit. Soon after, the Chief of the Gendarmerie came round, and, posting here half-a-dozen men, entreated me to keep in doors.

About an hour before sunset a police officer and six soldiers, besides the six gendarmes, were placed under my orders. With this small force, aided by my three cavasses, who have behaved admirably, I shall be able, no doubt, to defend my people.

The object of attacking this Consulate seems to be to render murder and pillage more general, and then few Christians are likely to escape, particularly so if the Moslem villagers, who have nothing to lose and much to gain, come down upon the unarmed inhabitants.

I have, at present, only six outsiders under my protection, besides the American Consuls, Mr. Chilton, for Erzeroum, and Mr. Hunter, for Kharput, awaiting their instructions at Trebizond.

That no British subject or American citizen has been hurt in these riots your

Excellency is aware from my telegram of this morning, and that there have been false alarms but no further disturbances from my telegrams of this evening.

Unfortunately, the 500 soldiers and 300 gendarmes are inadequate to prevent disorders breaking out again, while reinforcements from Rizeh or elsewhere cannot be brought here without Imperial sanction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

P.S. *October 11, 4 P.M.*—The Courdjee steamer is likely to leave this evening for Constantinople. I cannot yet give an estimate of the killed and wounded. As your Excellency has been informed by my telegrams, order is being maintained, and the troops have been reinforced by one battalion. I saw the Vali at the telegraph station. He thinks that the Armenians in their frenzy might still give trouble by firing out of the windows of their asylums.

I regret to state that the naturalized Armenian British subject, Kévork Arabian, is missing, though seen after the worst part of the massacre.

Now that there is martial law and those armed will be severely punished, public order will, I trust, be maintained.

H. Z. L.

Inclosure 2 in No. 194.

Report by a Missionary at Trebizond.

THE excitement began a week ago, when an attempt was made on the life of the ex-Vali of Van. He was shot and wounded by an Armenian revolutionist, who has not yet been captured, and is supposed by the Government to be concealed somewhere in the city. The excitement of the Turks was of course greatly increased on hearing of matters in Constantinople. They seemed to infer that all the Armenians were banded together, and in armed rebellion against the Government. The Turks themselves represented that they were afraid of an attack from the Armenians, and even in some cases took measures to put their families in places of safety. It seems incredible that they could have been sincere in this. On Friday night, the 4th October, there were extensive movements of armed men on the streets. I watched them by moonlight from my windows from 9 to 11 o'clock, but I could not make out what was their plan or purpose. At about 11 o'clock they seemed to disperse, and nothing specially worthy of mention occurred through the night. On Saturday, the 5th October, the excitement in town was very intense. The Consuls had a consultation, and, going in a body to the Vali, earnestly pressed him to arrest those who were exciting the people to acts of outrage. The Vali declined to do so, but promised in his own way to do the right thing. Until Monday, the 7th October, matters seemed to be quieting down, when an incident stirred up the excitement anew. On the previous Friday night the son of a leading Turk was wounded on the street, some say by one of his companions, others that he was shot by an Armenian whom he was trying to arrest. On Monday he died, and the funeral revived the excitement in an intensified form, and loud and many were the threats of massacre that night, and hundreds of the Armenians rushed to places of safety. Nothing occurred, perhaps on account of the rain. The next morning, the 8th October, all dispersed in the hope that the danger was passed. Men went to their shops and were encouraged to open them, as they had not done for two or three previous days. Suddenly, like a clap of thunder in a clear sky, the thing began about 11 A.M. yesterday. Unsuspecting people walking about the streets were shot ruthlessly down. Men standing or sitting quietly at their shop-doors were instantly dropped with a bullet through their heads or hearts. Their aim was deadly, and I have heard of no wounded men. Some were slashed with swords until life was extinct. They passed through quarters where only old men, women, and children remained, killing the men and large boys, generally permitting the women and younger children to live. For five hours this horrid work of inhuman butchery went on, the cracking of the musketry, sometimes like a volley from a platoon of soldiers, but more often single shots from near and distant points, the crashing in of doors, and the thud, thud of sword blows sounded on our ears. Then the sound of musketry died away, and the work of looting began. Every shop of an Armenian in the market was gutted, and the victors in this cowardly and brutal war glutted themselves with the spoils. For hours bales of broad cloth, cotton goods, and

every conceivable kind of merchandize passed along without molestation to the houses of the spoilers. The intention evidently was to impoverish, and as near as possible to blot out, the Armenians of this town. So far as appearances went, the police and soldiers distinctly aided in this savage work. They were mingled with armed men, and so far as we could see made not the least effort to check them. Apparently, they took care to see that the right ones, that is, the Armenians, were killed; also that an offer of surrender might be made to all that were found unarmed. To any found with arms no quarter was given, but large numbers were shot down without any proffer of this kind. This talk of surrender would seem to be on the supposition that all were in an attitude of resistance. One poor fellow when called on to surrender thought he was called on to give up his religion; and when he refused, he was hacked to pieces in the presence of his wife and children. While I write the town is in a great stir, because news has come that the village Armenians thoroughly armed are on their way to attack the town. The real fact, however, seems to be, that the massacre is extending to the villages, but the constant effort is to show that this affair is only the quelling of an insurrection—like Sasun. Not one of the perpetrators of these outrages has been arrested or disarmed, but all have moved about with the utmost freedom to accomplish their nefarious purposes. On the other hand, many Armenians are in prison. While I write, the wails of the newly bereaved fall on my ears. Some in suspense wait to know the fate of their missing ones; others rejoice at greeting them again. Throngs fill the schools that are under foreign protection and the Consulates. There is no telling how many may have perished—100 is a moderate estimate; probably the figure would rise much higher, and how far the massacre will sweep through the villages remains to be seen.

Trebizond, October 9, 1895.

No. 195.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 702.)

Therapia, October 22, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Report which I have received from the Rev. R. Chambers, a British clergyman attached to the American Mission, giving the details of a massacre which took place at Akhissar.

I have called the serious attention of the Grand Vizier to the state of affairs in the Ismidi Sandjak, and have urged the removal of the Military Commandant, who is said to be one of the chief causes of danger there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 195.

The Rev. R. Chambers to Sir P. Currie.

Baghchejik (Ismidt), October 16, 1895.

Your Excellency,

HEARING that some of our Protestant people were wounded in the affray at Akhissar, and that all were in great terror, I went to that village on Sunday, the 13th instant. I expected to meet our Mutessarif there, but he had departed before my arrival.

The Military Pasha was very angry when he found that I had gone. He and the Mutessarif called the Protestant Vakeel on Monday evening, and treated him very rudely, rating him for not having warned them of my intention to go. Their treatment of the Vakeel has produced a very bad impression in the minds of the Christians of Nicomedia (Ismidt).

Immediately on my return I called on the Mutessarif, who received me with great honour, and talked with the utmost freedom of the whole situation.

As I entered the village of Akhissar on Sunday a fearful stench greeted me. Several bodies that had that morning been recovered from a well were being buried. I

visited four wells: from one of them—ten minutes' walk from the scene of the slaughter—fourteen bodies had been recovered; from another, two; from another, five. One had not yet been opened; there were blood-marks on the stones covering it. In all, twenty-three bodies have been recovered for burial. Of these, nine were the bodies of Akhissar merchants; six of traders from Kunjilar; six from Koordbeleng; and two from Arslanbeg. At least six others are known to have been killed. There are thirty-three wounded, while about fifty persons, most of whom were expected to be present in Akhissar on that day, have not been heard from.

The murders were committed in the most inhuman manner: cudgels, knives, axes, swords and fire-arms were used. Young boys helped in the slaying. Ropes were tied to the feet of the dead, and the bodies were dragged through the streets (leaving clots of blood on the stones over which they were dragged), and thrown into the wells. One old man of 75 years was tumbled in without being killed, and was left to die among the corpses of his friends.

The stones about the mouths of the wells were carefully washed or covered over with earth and manure.

There were about 200 Armenian shops, 63 of which were permanently occupied by merchants of the place, while the rest were occupied on market days by the traders from the villages. But one shop, where ketchag (thick native felt) was kept for sale, escaped. Of the rest, every window was smashed, and not so much as a pin or needle left. I was amazed to see what a clean sweep was made. The merchants' money, watches, and other valuables were first secured, then the men killed, and their account books, notes of hand, and valuable papers torn to shreds. Sometimes the murderers would scatter a handful of shredded accounts upon the body of the merchant, saying, "Aha, receive what I owe you." The loss in goods must be not less than 15,000 liras, and, perhaps, much over that sum.

The killers were the survivors and sons of immigrants who came from Bosnia, Bulgaria, and Roumelia at the close of the late war. They lived in the village of Akhissar and in the vicinity, and were known as friends and neighbours.

There were sixteen armed officials present—Mudir, Kol-Aghasi, zaptiehs, and soldiers—but their presence was evidently an encouragement to the killers. They could have stopped the slaughter at its inception or at any time during its course, as the Mutessarif and Attorney-General confessed to me. Instead of attempting to do so they acted as follows: the Kol-Aghassi observed the killing for forty minutes, and then taking with him three zaptiehs rode to Gueve, 5 miles away, to give word to the Kaimakam, who, four hours after the slaughter commenced, arrived on the scene. This shows fiendish deliberation of movement. Ibrahim on-Bashi stood watching; and when piteously appealed to by name by perishing men paid no attention. Ismidli Mehemet, a zaptieh, took money from two men on the promise to save them, and then killed one of them. This zaptieh was arrested by the authorities, but soon released. Men in hiding and women in the houses heard the Mudir shouting encouragement to the killers. Hadji Bosh Chaoush, member of the Belidieh Court, mounted on a horse and brandishing an axe, encouraged the killers. Deli Hafaus visited the Government house just before the affair began, and on his return began the work. Vinzim Effendi (Imam) was supposed to be giving signs, directing the killing or sparing of victims. Warnings were given to some in outside places that the "infidels" religion was to be destroyed that day. On the preceding Tuesday a prominent Armenian told the Kaimakam that the Mudir (Hussein) and the Kol-Aghassi (Racim) were dangerous men, and entreated that ten or fifteen soldiers be stationed in Akhissar to protect the people. This was not done. The killing of so many, the disposing of the bodies, the careful covering up of the wells, the washing of blood-stains, the complete disappearance of such a quantity of goods, and the destruction of notes of hand and account books, all show a perfection of plan and a deliberation of action impossible to an unprepared and suddenly aroused mob.

There has never been the slightest trace of Hunchagism in Akhissar, the Armenians had no arms and made no resistance, nor, as the Attorney-General confessed to me, did they do anything to bring on the affray (though the Mutessarif asserts that two young Armenians early in the day, having pistols, fired them off seven times and thus frightened the Mahommedans, who resorted to arms to save themselves). An Armenian was arrested as the cause of the affair, but was soon released. The Mudir was arrested, examined, and released, but on Monday last he was again arrested and placed on the train under guard. The soldiers left the train at Adabazar, and the Mudir was next day reported as at large at Sabanja. About sixty have been arrested.

The whole Armenian population of this province is in a state of intense anxiety. I

spent Monday afternoon and night at Adabazar. Monday was market day, but the Armenians had opened very few of their shops. An attack was expected, as many threats had been made. Threats and alarming rumours have been heard in Ismidt, and the people are excited and full of fear.

If a dozen of the Akhissar killers could be court-martialled and promptly shot confidence would be restored.

Baghchejik is quiet and safe. We have no fear here if only left alone by the Government. Yesterday a spy, professing to be a survivor of Sasun and Constantinople, was caught and returned to the Governor. If soldiers are sent here, and an attempt made to deprive the people of the few arms they have in their houses, serious trouble will be sure to follow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. CHAMBERS.

No. 196.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No 703.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 22, 1895.*

IN my despatch No. 694 of the 17th instant I had the honour to forward to your Lordship the French text of the scheme of reforms as agreed upon between the three Ambassadors and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Sublime Porte subsequently prepared first a Turkish and then a second French text. The differences between this document and the original (which are given in the inclosed Memorandum) are mostly unimportant, but two deserve notice.

In treating of the Permanent Commission of Control, Article 32, the Turkish text inserts the words, "with a Mahommedan President," but this phrase is not found in either of the French versions. The Ambassadors have raised no objection to the appointment of a Mussulman President, and the Grand Vizier has informed us of his intention to propose Hassan Fehmi Pasha, Governor of Smyrna, for the post.

Secondly, in the French text of the Porte the last of the "paragraphes figurant dans le Décret" runs as follows:—

"Des mesures conformes aux principes ci-dessus seront appliquées dans les cazas tels que Zéitoun et Hadjin."

When the issue of the Imperial Iradé was communicated to the Embassies they were verbally informed that the Sultan desired the *insertion* of the words, "tels que Zéitoun et Hadjin," but it was understood that the words, "où les non-Musulmans forment une partie notable de la population," would remain. An effort was made to induce Said Pasha to consent to their reinsertion, but his Excellency, who declared that they had dropped out by a mistake, begged that the text adopted by the Porte might be accepted, on the ground that discussion of the wording, if once commenced, might last an indefinite period and delay the settlement of the question. The three Embassies therefore agreed to take note in their reply to the Sublime Porte of the difference of reading, and to reaffirm the principle that the reform scheme is to be adopted in localities where a considerable proportion of the inhabitants are Christians.

I would suggest that this French version of the Porte, in conjunction with the note of the three Embassies, should be regarded as the authoritative text of the reform scheme.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 196.

Differences between French texts of Scheme of Reforms as prepared by the three Embassies and accepted by the Porte.

Text of three Embassies.	*Text of Porte.*
CHAPITRE III, Art. 5: ". . . . de l'Empire . . . ."	Omit these words.
Chapitre VI, Art. 19.	
Both texts omit the reference, but it appears from the Turkish text, after the words, "conformément au règlement des," should be inserted, "prescription du IIe Chapitre de la Loi sur la Formation des Tribunaux Civils."	
Chapitre XV, Art. 31.	After the words, "en cas de difficulté ceux-ci pourront recourir aux Tribunaux." Add— "Dans le cas où personne ne se présenterait pour l'affermage des dîmes de certains villages, ou bien si le prix offert était inférieur à la valeur réelle des dîmes à adjuger, ces dîmes seront administrées en régie conformément au Règlement sur la matière."
Dispositions qui doivent figurer dans le Décret de Promulgation.	
IV. Des mesures conformes aux principes ci-dessus seront appliquées dans tous les cazas où les non-Musulmans forment une partie notable de la population.	IV. Des mesures conformes aux principes ci-dessus seront appliquées dans les cazas tels que Zéitoun et Hadjin.

No. 197.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 704.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 22, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 694 of the 17th instant, forwarding the scheme of reforms as agreed upon by the Ambassadors of the three Powers with Said Pasha, and also to my last preceding despatch, I have now the honour to inclose the copy of a *note verbale* from the Porte officially communicating the text of a Vizirial letter which has been addressed to Shakir Pasha, inclosing the scheme, and instructing him to superintend its execution. The letter adds that the reforms have at the same time been communicated to the Governors of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, Sivas, Kharput, and Diarbekir, and that measures in conformity with the principles laid down will be applied to other cazas, such as Zeitoun and Hadjin. We have, in reply, sent a collective note, of which a copy is inclosed, taking act of the arrangements made, and reserving to ourselves the right of calling the attention of the Sublime Porte to any unfit persons who may be designated for posts in the provincial Administration. We have also taken act of the intention of the Porte to extend the reforms to all cazas in Asia Minor where the Christians may be in a majority.

Said Pasha will formally acknowledge the receipt of this note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 197.

Note Verbale.

SA Majesté Impériale le Sultán ayant bien voulu, dans sa haute sollicitude pour le bien-être de ses sujets sans distinction de race ni de religion, sanctionner spontanément le plan des réformes à introduire dans l'administration des vilayets d'Erzeroum, Sivas, Van, Diarbékir, Bitlis, et Mamouret-el-Aziz, le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères a l'honneur d'en transmettre ci-jointe une copie à son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique, avec le texte du Décret y relatif.

Le 20 Octobre, 1895.

Inclosure 2 in No. 197.

Vizirial Order addressed to the Valis of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, Diarbékir, Mamouret-el-Aziz, and Sivas, and to the Inspector, his Excellency Shakir Pasha.

(Translation.)

IN accordance with the glorious provisions of the Hatti-Humayoun of Gulkhané, promulgated on the 26th of Shaaban, 1255, by His late Imperial Majesty Abdu-el-Mejid Khan, the illustrious father of the Sovereign, as well as the terms of the Firman of Reforms issued in the beginning of Jemazirel-Akhiri, 1272, and in pursuance of the laws actually laid down and in force, as all men know, the selection and appointment of the officials and employés of the Imperial Government, is effected by virtue of an Imperial Iradé, and in due compliance with the special Regulations on the point, and all classes of Ottoman subjects to whatsoever nationality they may belong, are to be admitted to the service of the State. Accordingly it has been decided that these shall be employed according to their merits and capacity, in accordance with Regulations which shall be observed in respect of all classes alike, and also that all Ottoman subjects who comply in point of age and attainments with the existing Regulations of the State schools shall be received into such schools without any distinction being made.

Moreover, just as from time to time a number of measures and Regulations have been introduced of a nature to bring about the necessary reforms in proportion as these are requisite and possible in every part of the Ottoman dominions, and to improve the well-being of the subjects, and increase the prosperity of the country so since the auspicious accession of His Imperial Majesty, his thoughts have been directed towards the complete realization of these benevolent designs.

It is, therefore, intended by the Imperial Government to carry out gradually useful reforms throughout His Majesty's dominions, corresponding with local requirements and the nature of the inhabitants, and accordingly, it has been decided to effect reforms in the Asiatic vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, Diarbekir, Mamouret-el-Aziz, and Sivas, to comprise the application of the Laws and Regulations contained in the Destour, as well as the provisions of the aforesaid Hatti-Humayoun of Gulkhané, and the Firman of Reforms.

This decision being submitted by a special Council of Ministers to the Sultan, has been sanctioned by His Majesty in an Imperial Iradé, and certified copies obtained from the Imperial Divan of the schedule containing the points of reform decided upon having been transmitted to each of the six vilayets mentioned. A copy is inclosed to your Excellency herewith.

Besides this, four other Articles included in the decision and sanctioned by the Imperial Iradé are subjoined as follows:—

1. An official in every respect worthy of regard shall be appointed by the Imperial Government, with the title of General Inspector, to attend to the carrying out of the reforms and superintend their application, and shall proceed to his post. In the event of the absence of the Inspector, or of any impediment, another high Mussulman official will be temporarily appointed by His Majesty to replace him. The Inspector will be accompanied during the execution of his duties by a non-Mussulman Assistant.

2. As the Armenians accused or convicted of being implicated in political events were granted an Imperial pardon on the 11th (23rd) July, 1311, 1895, this measure will be applied to all Armenians who shall not be proved to be directly concerned

in any offence at common law, and who having been imprisoned before that date still remain in confinement.

3. Armenians exiled from the country, or who have fled for refuge to foreign countries, shall, upon proving their Ottoman nationality, and their good behaviour, be allowed to return freely to the Ottoman dominions.

4. In cazas, such as Zeitoun and Khachin, measures similar to the aforesaid rules shall be applied. It is unnecessary to explain or repeat that the most ardent desire of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, the bounteous benefactor, is the increase of the prosperity of the Ottoman dominions, and, in general, of all his subjects, and the insuring of their comfort and happiness, and these Articles and Enactments will still further assure the realization of this aim.

His Excellency Shakir Pasha, one of His Imperial Majesty's Aides-de-camp, who has been appointed to the important post of General Inspector, has been named in accordance with an Imperial Order to the six vilayets aforesaid, and the appointments of the Assistant who is to accompany him, as well as the Commission of Inspection to be named in accordance with the schedule already mentioned, are in course of progress, and I have to desire you to proceed to carry out the matters decided upon with extraordinary zeal, attention, and care in your district, and to report in due course upon the results thus attained.

30 *Rebi-ul-Akhir*, 1313 (*October* 8 (20), 1895).

Inclosure 3 in No. 197.

Scheme of Reforms.

Chapitre I.—*Vilayets et Mutessarifats.*

(Traduction.)

ARTICLE 1. Auprès de chaque vilayet (Gouvernement Général) sera nommé un Mouavin non-Musulman conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre II du Règlement sur l'Administration Générale des Vilayets du 29 Chewal, 1286.

Il sera chargé, conformément à ce Règlement, de coopérer aux affaires générales du vilayet et d'en préparer l'expédition.

Art. 2. Seront également nommés des Mouavins non-Musulmans auprès des Mutessarifs et des Caïmacams Musulmans, dans les sandjaks et les cazas où cette mesure sera justifiée par l'importance de la population Chrétienne.

Chapitre II.—*Caïmacams.*

Art. 3. Les Caïmacams seront choisis sans distinction de religion par le Ministère de l'Intérieur parmi les diplômés de l'École Civile et nommés par Iradé Impérial.

Art. 4. Seront maintenus dans l'Administration ceux qui, étant actuellement en fonctions, seront reconnus capables, bien que non-diplômés.

Dans le cas où il n'y aurait pas en ce moment un nombre de non-Musulmans diplômés de l'École Mulkié suffisant pour permettre de faire les nominations reconnues nécessaires, ces postes seront occupés par des personnes au service du Gouvernement qui, quoique non-diplômées, seront reconnues aptes à remplir les fonctions de Caïmacam.

Chapitre III.—*Proportion des Chrétiens dans les Fonctions Publiques.*

Art. 5. Les fonctions administratives seront confiées aux sujets Musulmans et non-Musulmans proportionnellement aux chiffres des populations Musulmane et non-Musulmane de chaque vilayet.

Le nombre des fonctionnaires non-Musulmans de l'Administration de la Police et de la Gendarmerie sera fixé par la Commission Permanente de Contrôle.

Chapitre IV.—*Conseils des Sandjaks et Cazas.*

Art. 6. Les Conseils Administratifs des sandjaks et des cazas composés de membres élus et de membres de droit sont maintenus et fonctionneront conformément à l'Article 61 du Règlement sur l'Administration Générale des Vilayets de 1286, et aux Articles 77 et 78 de la Loi des Vilayets de 1867, d'après lesquels ils ont été constitués.

Leurs attributions sont fixées par les Articles 90, 91, et 92 du Règlement sur l'Administration Générale des Vilayets, et par les Articles 38, 39, et 40 des Instructions relatives à l'Administration Générale des Vilayets du 25 Mouharrem, 1293.

Chapitre V.—*Nahiés.*

Art. 7. Les nahiés seront organisés conformément aux prescriptions des Articles 94 à 106 du Règlement sur l'Administration Générale des Vilayets de 1286, et des Articles 1 à 19 du Règlement sur l'Administration des Communes du 26 Mars, 1292.

Art. 8. Chaque nahié sera administré par un Moudir et un Conseil composé de quatre membres élus parmi les habitants.

Le Conseil choisira parmi les membres un Moudir et un Adjoint. Le Moudir devra appartenir à la classe qui forme la majorité des habitants et l'Adjoint à l'autre classe. Le Conseil aura, en outre, un Secrétaire.

Art. 9. Si les habitants d'un nahié sont d'une même classe, les membres du Conseil seront élus exclusivement parmi les habitants appartenant à cette même classe; si la population du Cercle Communal est mixte, la minorité devra être représentée proportionnellement à son importance relative à condition qu'elle comprenne au moins vingt-cinq maisons.

Art. 10. Les Moudirs et les Secrétaires des nahiés sont rétribués.

Art. 11. Les candidats aux Conseils des Nahiés devront remplir les conditions prévues par l'Article 10 du Règlement sur l'Administration des Communes.

Art. 12. Les Imams, les prêtres, les professeurs d'école, et tous ceux qui se trouvent au service du Gouvernement ne pourront être élus Moudirs.

Art. 13. Le Conseil sera renouvelé par moitié chaque année. Les membres ainsi que le Moudir seront rééligibles.

Art. 14. Les attributions du Moudir et des Conseils des Nahiés sont réglées par les Articles 20 à 27 du Règlement sur l'Administration des Communes.

Villages des Nahiés.

Art. 15. Chaque village du nahié aura un Moukhtar. S'il y a plusieurs quartiers et plusieurs classes d'habitants, il y aura un Moukhtar par quartier et par classe.

Art. 16. Aucun village ne pourra relever de deux nahiés à la fois.

Chapitre VI.—*Justice.*

Art. 17. Il y aura dans chaque localité un Conseil des Anciens présidé par le Moukhtar et dont la mission sera de concilier à l'amiable les contestations entre les habitants, contestations prévues par les lois judiciaires.

Art. 18. Les fonctions de Juges de Paix sont exercées dans les villages par les Conseils des Anciens et dans les Communes par les Conseils Communaux. Leurs attributions et le degré de leur compétence sont déterminés par la loi.

Art. 19. Des Inspecteurs judiciaires dont le nombre ne sera pas moindre de six et qui seront, par moitié Musulmans et non-Musulmans, seront chargés dans chaque vilayet d'accélérer le jugement de tous les procès en cours et de surveiller l'état des prisons conformément au Règlement de. . . . .

Les inspections devront être faites en même temps par deux Inspecteurs dont l'un Musulman et l'autre non-Musulman.

Chapitre VII.—*Police.*

Art. 20. Les agents de la police seront recrutés parmi les sujets Musulmans et non-Musulmans de l'Empire proportionnellement aux chiffres des populations Musulmane et non-Musulmane du vilayet.

Art. 21. Des contingents suffisants seront affectés à chaque subdivision administrative y compris le nahié.

Les agents de police du nahié sont placés sous les ordres du Moudir et commandés par des Commissaires.

Leurs armes et leurs uniformes seront identiques aux modèles déjà adoptés.

Chapitre VIII.—*Gendarmerie.*

Art. 22. Les officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats de la gendarmerie seront recrutés parmi les habitants Musulmans et non-Musulmans de l'Empire proportionnellement aux chiffres des populations Musulmane et non-Musulmane de chaque vilayet.

La gendarmerie sera soldée et entretenue aux frais de la caisse du vilayet.

La solde des gendarmes est supérieure à celle des soldats de l'armée Impériale et celle des officiers équivalente à la solde des officiers de l'armée Impériale.

Art 23. La gendarmerie est chargée du maintien de l'ordre et de l'escorte de la poste.

Chapitre IX.—*Gardes-champêtres.*

Art. 24. Le Conseil du Nahié choisira des gardes-champêtres dans les différentes classes de la population.

Leur nombre sera fixé par la Commission Permanente de Contrôle conformément aux besoins de chaque nahié sur le rapport de Moudir et la proposition du Vali.

Leur uniforme et leur armement seront arrêtés par le Département de la Guerre.

Chapitre X.—*Prisons et Comité d'Enquête Préliminaire.*

Art. 25. Les Règlements existants sur la tenue des prisons et des maisons d'arrêt seront strictement exécutés.

Art. 26. Le Comité d'Enquête préliminaire prévu par les Articles 11 et 12 des Instructions relatives à l'Administration Générale des Vilayets est appelé à fonctionner de la façon la plus régulière.

Chapitre XI.—*Contrôle des Kurdes.*

Art. 27. Les localités de migration des Kurdes seront fixées d'avance de façon à éviter tout dommage aux habitants de la part des Achirets. Un officier ayant sous ses ordres une force armée suffisante et des gendarmes accompagnera chaque tribu dans sa migration. Un Commissaire de Police lui sera adjoint.

Les Kurdes remettront à l'autorité des otages pendant leurs migrations.

Les Règlements sur les feuilles de route et le port d'armes seront appliqués aux Kurdes.

Les tribus nomades et errantes seront engagées à se fixer sur des terres qui leur seront concédées par le Gouvernement

Chapitre XII.—*Cavalerie Hamidié.*

Art. 28. Le port d'armes et d'uniformes par les cavaliers Hamidiés en dehors des périodes d'instruction est prohibé.

En dehors de ces périodes les cavaliers Hamidiés sont justiciables des Tribunaux ordinaires.

Un Règlement militaire qui déterminera tous les détails de leur service sera élaboré sans retard.

Chapitre XIII.—*Titres de Propriété*

Art. 29. Il sera institué au chef-lieu du vilayet et des sandjaks des Commissions pour la revision des titres de propriété.

Ces Commissions seront composées de quatre membres (deux Musulmans et deux non-Musulmans) et présidées par le Directeur des Archives ou le préposé aux immeubles.

Leurs décisions seront soumises aux Conseils d'Administration.

En outre, quatre Délégués seront envoyés chaque année de Constantinople dans les vilayets pour examiner les irrégularités qui auraient pu surgir dans les affaires de propriété.

Chapitre XIV.—*Perception des Impôts.*

Art. 30. Pour éviter l'emploi de la force publique, des agents spéciaux, qui ne pourront faire aucune réquisition de fourrages ni de vivres et qui n'auront aucun maniement de fonds remettront aux Moukhtars et aux Receveurs des villages et quartiers, élus par les habitants, les feuilles sur lesquelles sont inscrits les impôts dus par chaque habitant.

Les Moukhtars et Receveurs susnommés seront seuls chargés de la perception des impôts et de leur consignation aux caisses de l'État.

Chapitre XV.—*Dîmes.*

Art. 31. La perception de la dîme se fera par voie d'affermage. L'affermage en gros demeure aboli et est remplacé par la mise en adjudication par villages et au nom des habitants.

En cas de difficulté, ceux-ci pourront recourir aux Tribunaux. Dans le cas où personne ne se présenterait pour l'affermage des dîmes de certains villages ou bien si le prix offert était inférieur à la valeur réelle des dîmes à adjuger, ces dîmes seront administrées en régie, conformément au Règlement sur la matière.

La corvée étant abolie, la prestation en nature et en argent est maintenue pour les travaux d'utilité publique.

Le budget de l'Instruction Publique dans chaque vilayet est fixé par le Ministère de l'Instruction Publique.

La vente, pour cause de dettes fiscales ou personnelles, de la demeure du contribuable, des terrains nécessaires à sa subsistance, de ses instruments de travail, de ses bêtes de labour et de ses grains demeure interdite.

Chapitre XVI.—*Commission Permanente de Contrôle.*

Art. 32. Il sera institué à la Sublime Porte une Commission Permanente de Contrôle composée par moitié de membres Musulmans et non-Musulmans et chargée de surveiller l'exacte application des réformes.

Les Ambassades feront parvenir à cette Commission, par l'intermédiaire de leurs Dragomans, les avis, communications et renseignements qu'elles jugeront nécessaires dans les limites de l'application des réformes et des mesures prescrites par le présent Acte.

Lorsque la Sublime Porte et les Ambassades seront d'accord pour considérer la Commission comme ayant accompli son mandat, elle sera dissoute.

Paragraphes figurant dans le Décret.

Paragraphe 1.—*Haut Commissaire de Surveillance pour l'Application des Réformes.*

(Traduction.)

Un fonctionnaire digne de considération à tous égards sera nommé et envoyé sur les lieux à titre de Haut Commissaire (Muffetich) par le Gouvernement Impérial avec mission spéciale de surveiller l'exécution des réformes et de présider à leur application.

En cas d'absence ou d'empêchement, ce Haut Commissaire sera remplacé, provisoirement, par un autre haut fonctionnaire Musulman désigné par Sa Majesté Impériale.

Le Haut Commissaire Impérial sera accompagné dans sa mission par un Adjoint (Moavin) non-Musulman.

Paragraphe 2.—*Amnistie.*

Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, ayant accordé le 23 Juillet, 1895, une amnistie aux Arméniens accusés ou condamnés pour des faits politiques, cette mesure sera appliquée à tous ceux qui auraient été incarcérés avant cette date et qui seraient encore détenus et qui ne seraient pas convaincus de participation directe à des crimes de droit commun.

Paragraphe 3.—*Rentrée des Emigrés.*

Les Arméniens qui auraient été expulsés ou éloignés de leur pays ou qui auraient émigré en pays étranger, pourront rentrer librement en Turquie, après que leur nationalité Ottomane et leur bonne conduite auront été démontrées.

Paragraphe 4.—*Situation des non-Musulmans dans les autres Vilayets de l'Anatolie.*

Des mesures conformes aux principes ci-dessus seront appliquées dans les cazas tels que Zéitoun et Hadjin.

Inclosure 4 in No. 197.

Collective Note addressed by the Ambassadors of Great Britain, France, and Russia to Said Pasha.

LES Soussignés, Ambassadeurs de Russie, de France, et de Grande-Bretagne ont reçu la note verbale que la Sublime Porte leur a adressée le 20 de ce mois et ont l'honneur d'en accuser réception à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Ils ont pris connaissance du texte du Décret relatif aux réformes dont Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan vient de décider l'application ainsi que du plan qui en contient l'exposé, et c'est avec satisfaction qu'ils constatent que le Gouvernement Impérial a résolu de mettre en pratique les Règles solennellement formulées dans les Hatts précédents des Souverains Ottomans et les mesures découlant des principes exposés par la Sublime Porte dans ses communications des 2 Juin, 17 Juin, 5 Août, 17 Août, et 5 Octobre de la présente année.

En prenant acte de ces dispositions et de l'intention de la Sublime Porte de les étendre entre les vilayets mentionnés dans le Décret à tous les cazas d'Anatolie où les Arméniens forment une partie notable de la population, les Ambassadeurs de France, de Grande-Bretagne, et de Russie ne doutent pas que les fonctionnaires chargés d'exécuter et d'appliquer les réformes n'assurent par leur intelligence, leur zèle, et leur désintéressement, à tous les sujets Ottomans sans distinction les

bienfaits d'une Administration soucieuse du bien-être général et de la prospérité de l'Empire.

Les garanties dont le Gouvernement Impérial déclare dans ses communications susmentionnées vouloir entourer le choix et la nomination des fonctionnaires de tous ordres, témoignent de l'importance que la Sublime Porte attache à ce que ses Agents dans les provinces remplissent leur mission à la satisfaction de toutes les communautés et à ce que les Valis, notamment, donnent à l'administration de chaque vilayet une impulsion conforme aux vues que vient d'affirmer à nouveau Sa Majesté Impériale.

C'est dans cette confiance que les Ambassadeurs de France, de Grande-Bretagne, et de Russie croient pouvoir le mieux servir les intentions manifestées par la Sublime Porte en se réservant de lui signaler lors de leur désignation les personnes dont les antécédents et le caractère ne sembleraient pas répondre aux conditions indiquées comme nécessaires par le Gouvernement Ottoman lui-même.

C'est aussi, dans cette confiance qu'ils seront heureux de prêter, à l'occasion, toute leur concours au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale pour la réalisation des réformes qu'elle vient de décréter.

Les Soussignés prient son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de vouloir bien leur accuser réception de la présente communication et saisissent, &c.

(Signé) NELIDOW.
P. CAMBON.
PHILIP CURRIE.

Le 24 Octobre, 1895.

No. 198.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 706.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 22, 1895.*

IN consequence of the action of the Armenian Revolutionary Committees in sustaining the agitation among their countrymen in this city by means of the compulsory closing of their shops, and consequent suspension of all trade and commerce, the Ambassadors agreed to make a joint communication to the Patriarch on this state of affairs through the Dragomans of the Austrian, Russian, and British Embassies.

I instructed Mr. Muriatch to explain at the same time to his Beatitude that our main object in taking the present step was to strengthen his hands in the difficult circumstances in which he was placed. His Beatitude replied that he would continue as in the past to advise the prominent members of the Armenian community to do their utmost to prevent acts of violence, though it was impossible for him to influence directly the instigators of the proceedings of which we complained, as they were unknown to him.

Mgr. Ismirlian expressed great satisfaction at learning that the Irâdé authorizing the reform scheme had been issued, and his earnest hope that they would be faithfully executed.

The Patriarch said that the only object of the moderate and sensible portion of the Armenians was that the safety of their lives and property should be secured by good administration, and if the reforms would produce this result, he could declare, in the name of his nation, that all Armenians would be satisfied with them, and would show their gratitude for doing their utmost to bring about a return to a normal condition of affairs.

His Beatitude requested the Dragomans to convey to the Ambassadors the expression of his warmest acknowledgments for the services they had rendered to the Armenian people, and he expressed the earnest hope that the Great Powers would continue to show the same sympathy and interest towards the Armenians, who would on their part do their best to prove that they were not undeserving of the benefits conferred upon them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 198.

Joint Communication to the Armenian Patriarch.

EN réponse aux instances du Patriarche les Ambassadeurs s'inspirant de sentiments d'humanité et désireux de contribuer au rétablissement de la paix publique, sont intervenus pour faire évacuer les églises. Cette intervention a eu pour effet de rétablir la tranquillité dans les esprits. Mais il résulte de nouvelles informations que l'effervescence renaîtrait et serait entretenue par des agitateurs qui déterminent à l'aide de leurs menaces la fermeture des magasins, l'interruption des relations commerciales et qui fomentent de nouvelles manifestations.

Les Ambassadeurs signalent ces manœuvres à sa Béatitude et la prient d'user de toute son influence pour combattre une agitation qui peut avoir des conséquences funestes et compromettre le succès de l'intervention des Puissances.

No. 199.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 710.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 23, 1895.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum reported to me recently that the ex-Chief of the Mush Police, Mohammed Farzi, whose dismissal I demanded, in concert with my French and Russian colleagues, as a punishment for the unauthorized entry of the police into the house occupied by the Consular Delegates with the Sasun Commission, had been appointed to the more important post of Tabur-Agassi, or Chief of Battalion of Police at Trebizond, immediately afterwards.

I at once called the attention of the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs to this flagrant case of rewarding an offender against Consular privileges under the pretence of punishing him, and asked what I was to think of such a proceeding. They both expressed deep regret at the occurrence, and promised that the officer in question should be at once dismissed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 200.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 711.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 23, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 666 of the 9th October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting the result of the Vali's inquiry into the recent affray at Cæsaren.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 200.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, October 15, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Excellency of the 2nd instant, reporting that no steps had so far been taken by the Cæsaren authorities to investigate the affray at Talas, in which four Armenians were wounded by a Turkish mob, and that the Vali had consequently promised to inquire into the matter and inform me of the result, I now have the honour to report to your Excellency that Meindouh Pasha read to me yesterday a telegram he had received from the Kaïmakam of Talas, having reference to the incident in question.

The telegram was to the effect that the four Armenians were intoxicated at the time the disturbance had taken place, and while watering their horses at a fountain had jeered at certain Turks and reviled the Mahommedan religion; that in the scuffle which ensued, they had drawn their knives and wounded a Bekji and a policeman; and that, although summonses had subsequently been served by the local Correctional Court both upon the Armenians and upon such Turks as had taken part in the broil, none of the former had as yet put in an appearance at the Court.

My own private information leads me, however, to believe that the attack made on these four men was entirely unprovoked, and originated simply in a desire for retaliation on the part of the Turks, who were incensed at the outcome of the demonstration made, shortly before, by other Armenians at the Deverenk Monastery, as set forth in Mr. Consul Cumberbatch's despatch to your Excellency of the 2nd ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 201.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 712.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 23, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 641 of the 2nd October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting the arrival of a further number of Circassian immigrants into the Angora district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 201.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, October 17, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Excellency of the 24th ultimo, reporting the arrival in Angora of 1,200 Circassian Mahommedans from the Caucasus, I now have the honour to report that contrary to the belief expressed by the Vali that no immigration would take place, 2,800 Circassians have, since the date of the despatch referred to, been conveyed to Angora from Ismidt for distribution within this vilayet.

A Commission has been formed by Memdouh Pasha, under the presidency of the Mektoubji, to inquire into the condition of the immigrants, and provide for their well-being; to furnish the poorer among them with farming implements, and with money for their more immediate necessities.

Of these settlers, 1,073 have already been dispatched to Boghazlian and Ak-Tagh Maden, and 440 to Kir Shehr, in waggons drawn by mules or oxen, and under an escort of police, who have received orders to see that the travellers are provided with food and shelter on the way.

A special Committee will be called in the chief town of each caza, where a settlement is to be effected, whose duty it will be to portion out land to the settlers, and to provide them with timber and other building material; and further, to report every week to the Vali the progress of their installation.

An impression is prevalent among the Armenians here that the settlement of these foreign Mahommedans in the vicinity of Ak-Tagh Maden and Boghazlian will be a direct menace to their Armenian co-religionists, who are especially numerous in those towns.

As an instance of the predatory habits of the Circassian settlers in Turkey, I may mention that quite recently a band of five men belonging to a former generation of immigrants from the Caucasus attacked, near a bridge called "Chok Ghieuz Kiupru," a caravan of twenty carriers who were engaged in transporting various merchandize to the

yearly fair at Changira, and succeeded in carrying off all that was of value; none of the robbers have, as far as I am aware, been hitherto arrested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 202.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 713.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 23, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting apprehended disturbances at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 202.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, October 13, 1895.*

DR. JEWETT, in his letter of the 9th instant, reports as follows on the situation at Sivas:—

"I am told by Armenians that the Karslis* of this city and region, assisted by some of the Karslis belonging to the Hamidieh Regiment, are contemplating an attack on the Armenians. My informers say they have positive knowledge that the Karslis have had some meetings in which they have discussed the plan. I do not place much importance in this report. The Turks are too disunited to plan any concerted action, and the Karslis of this region are too careful of their own skins to take any great risk. The Armenians are pretty well armed, and would give the Karslis a warm reception.

"I am informed that the Armenians have a plan to come in a great crowd to the Consulate ostensibly to present a Petition, but really with the anticipation that the police will interfere; there will be a riot; the Armenians will have cause for complaint.

"The Armenians are not yet ready to make martyrs of themselves, and I do not think they will carry out this plan. However, being forewarned I am forearmed, and I will not get pulled into this plot."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 203.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 174.)
My Lord, *Rome, October 26, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I duly carried out your Lordship's instructions as conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 50 of the 23rd instant.

Baron Blanc, Minister for Foreign Affairs, was absent from Rome at the time, but I have this day received a reply, a copy of which is herein inclosed, to the communication which I had made him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

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* Immigrants from Kars.

Inclosure in No. 203.

Baron Blanc to Sir Clare Ford.

Rome, le 26 Octobre, 1895.

Cher Ambassadeur,

NOTRE nouvel Ambassadeur à Constantinople, M. Pansa, y a trouvé à son arrivée, le 24 courant, nos instructions portant que la période de l'action à trois de l'Angleterre avec la Russie et la France dans les affaires d'Arménie pouvant être considérée comme terminée par la communication, quelle qu'en doive être la valeur effective, du Règlement Ottoman pour les réformes en Arménie, l'Ambassade Royale doit, en présence de la continuation des massacres qui nous est annoncée par notre Consul à Trébizonde, s'entendre avec les Ambassades d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Allemagne pour appuyer les démarches que l'Ambassade d'Angleterre de son côté croient opportunes ou nécessaires.

Je reçois, en ce moment, de M. Pansa, information que des nouvelles inquiétantes continuant à arriver de divers points de l'Asie-Mineure, il a fait avec ses collègues d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Allemagne des démarches auprès de la Sublime Porte pour qu'elle avise promptement à prévenir de nouveaux excès.

Croyez-moi, &c.
(Signé) BLANC.

No. 204.

Said Pasha to Morel Bey.—(Communicated by Morel Bey, October 29.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 28 Octobre*, 1895.

LE 24 courant, quinze Arméniens armés ont tué sans motif un jeune Musulman de Marache. Les meurtriers ont été pris vivants avec une cinquantaine d'armes. Le 26, une discussion futile servit de prétexte aux Arméniens pour susciter une émeute au bazar; le Gouverneur parvint pourtant par ses conseils à les calmer, mais vers le soir, douze Arméniens blessèrent grièvement dans les quartiers excentriques deux Musulmans sans défense. La plupart des coupables furent arrêtés; mais ceux qui parvinrent à s'enfuir revêtirent ensuite des costumes Musulmans avec turbans et tuèrent pendant la nuit un Notable Arménien.

Six autres Arméniens qui avaient tiré de leurs maisons des coups de feu sur les patrouilles furent également arrêtés, et grâce aux mesures prises la tranquillité règne dans la ville.

Quant aux agitateurs d'Alabach (Zéitoun) ils ont attaqué et pillé le village Musulman de Camarly en blessant quelques villageois.

Le Commandant de la Gendarmerie de Marache, qui avait été envoyé sur les lieux pour faire une enquête, a été, à son retour, attaqué par une bande de 2,000 émeutiers et mis à mort avec quatre des cinq gendarmes qui l'escortaient. Les meneurs sont les Arméniens de Marache et de Zéitoun.

Ils se proposeraient d'envahir bientôt différentes régions et de fomenter dans la ville de Marache une nouvelle émeute.

D'après les renseignements fournis par le Vali d'Alep, la surexcitation dans ces parages serait provoquée par quelques étrangers qui sont arrivés dernièrement.

Le 28 Octobre.—Une certaine agitation parmi les Arméniens ayant été signalée à Gumuchhané, le Gouverneur-Général de Trézibonde a immédiatement pris des mesures pour le maintien de l'ordre et de la tranquillité.

Le 28 Octobre.—Les meneurs Arméniens ayant voulu provoquer de l'agitation à Kharpout en faisant fermer précipitamment les boutiques, le Gouverneur-Général, aidé par les Notables et le missionnaire Américain, Mr. Barnen [?] est parvenu sans aucune effusion de sang à calmer les esprits et à faire rouvrir les boutiques fermées. Le calme y est complètement rétabli.

Le 29 Octobre.—D'après les renseignements reçus du Vilayet de Bitlis, le nombre des tués et des blessés tant de la part des Musulmans que des Arméniens, monte au chiffre total de 352, dont 173 Musulmans et 179 Arméniens.

Le 29 Octobre.—Les Arméniens qui avaient massacré près de Zéitoun le Commandant de la Gendarmerie de Marache ainsi que son escorte, ont brûlé les corps de deux de ces gendarmes.

No. 205.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 548.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 29*, 1895, 12·35 P.M.

I HAVE received the three following telegrams, all dated yesterday, from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, respecting the critical state of affairs there and at Bitlis, and I propose, after consulting with the United States' Minister, to make immediate representations to the Sublime Porte:—

Telegram No. 1:

"There is no further news from Bitlis, but the latest report puts the number of killed at 800. There is no doubt, I think, that the Kurds came from Modiki to join in the massacre. Here things are quieter to-day, and the feeling of panic has somewhat abated, but almost all the shops are closed.

"Caravans are intimidated from going to Sasun, so that all relief work is at a standstill. The Mussulman population, and even the authorities, pretend to believe that the object of the distribution of relief is to enable the Armenians to attack them."

Telegram No. 2:

"The chief Mussulmans of Mush held a consultation this evening with the Armenian Council to devise means for restoring confidence. The Mussulmans formally declared that all would go well if the missionaries left Sasun, and said they must do so, otherwise we should have at Mush a repetition of the scenes enacted at Bitlis. An answer is to be returned to this request within three days, and the Mussulmans declare that even an order from the Sultan himself will not make them alter their minds. Under these circumstances I beg that your Excellency will immediately instruct as to what steps I should take."

Telegram No. 3:

"In a conversation with the Mutessarif I said that I would ask your Excellency's permission to instruct the missionaries to come to Mush, at all events temporarily, if such a step was absolutely necessary to secure the public safety, but I told him that it would create a very bad impression in England if they were recalled from the scene of their disinterested labours on behalf of Turkish subjects.

"The Mutessarif promised to do his best to convince the Mussulmans of the erroneous character of their ideas."

No. 206.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 549.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 29*, 1895.

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs that the situation at Marash is evidently worse, and that the fighting at Ourfa is confirmed, and appears very serious. It is believed that the calling out of the Reserves in the vilayet has been the direct cause of the latter disturbance.

Mr. Barnham says that the critical situation is very generally attributed to the bad impression produced among the Armenians by the official publication of the reforms.

The President of Aintab College had written that owing to the military measures adopted, communication with Marash was impossible, and that the rumour had spread among the Armenians that the authorities had given permission for a massacre of Christians.

No. 207.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 551.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 29, 1895, 11·15 P.M.*

THE list of persons proposed as suitable to serve on the Commission of Control, or as Moavins in the six vilayets, has been submitted to the Sultan, and it is expected that the appointments will shortly be gazetted.

Acting on direction received from Sir P. Currie, I yesterday protested to the Grand Vizier against the Minister for Foreign Affairs being appointed President of the Commission, a step which the Sublime Porte was contemplating. The French and Russian Ambassadors have contented themselves with advising the Porte, while raising no personal objection to Said Pasha, not to appoint the Minister for Foreign Affairs as President of the Commission of Control, and have not formally protested, as they say that they have no right to do so.

At the end of my interview with the Grand Vizier his Highness stated that the Minister for Foreign Affairs would not be appointed. I understand, however, that the Sultan is very desirous to make this appointment, and I fear that His Majesty will have his way.

An Iradé has been issued sanctioning the appointment of Fathy Bey as Assistant to Shakir Pasha. Fathy Bey is a Maronite, and was for some time Secretary of Embassy at St. Petersburgh when Shakir Pasha was Ambassador. His appointment is considered to be a very good one.

No. 208.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 198.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 29, 1895, 11 P.M.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 548 of to-day, repeating telegrams Nos. 1, 2, and 3 from Mr. Hampson, in which he refers to the recent massacre at Bitlis, and reports on the present condition of affairs at Mush and Sasun.

The representations which you propose to make to the Turkish Government cannot be too strong respecting the impression which will be produced in this country if these massacres continue, or if the Turks persist in the attempt to stop the relief of the distressed Armenians, and to intimidate the missionaries into leaving the district.

The latter, I think, should consult their safety by withdrawing till the excitement has abated.

No. 209.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 552.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 30, 1895, 10 A.M.*

THE Representatives of the six Great Powers have received a Circular letter from the Armenian Patriarch begging them to make representations to the Sublime Porte with a view to having a stop put to the massacres of Armenians now taking place in the provinces.

No. 210.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 553.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 30, 1895, 10·10 A.M.*

A LETTER from the Minister of the Interior to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting that the missionaries should be recalled from Sasun on the ground that the Bitlis authorities regarded their distribution of relief as giving rise to serious objections, was yesterday communicated by the Porte to the Acting First Dragoman.

Mr. Marinitch expressed his regret that the Bitlis authorities should so misunderstand the charitable intentions of the missionaries, and deprecated the receipt of such a communication.

I do not propose to take any notice of this communication of the Sublime Porte.

No. 211.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 554.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 30, 1895, 7·30 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs that the Armenians in the city are being disarmed, but not the Mussulmans, that the calling out of the Reserves has caused great excitement, and that Europeans have been insulted and windows broken.

Mr. Barnham adds that disturbances are reported at Beilan.

No. 212.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 555.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 30, 1895, 8·10 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 198 of yesterday.

I had already anticipated your lordship's instructions, and have to-day renewed my representations to the Porte. I also insisted that orders should be sent for the protection of the Armenians of Sasun after the departure of the missionaries, and, further, that the latter, if compelled to withdraw temporarily, should be allowed to return to their relief work as soon as the promised reinforcements arrive.

I have asked the United States' Minister to support my representations, which he has done.

No. 213.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 556. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 30, 1895, 11·25 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 551 of yesterday, I have the honour to state that I was confidentially asked this morning by Said Pasha whether I had any objection to his proposed appointment as President of the Commission of Control.

I replied that we objected to the post being combined with that of Minister for Foreign Affairs, and we desired that the Commission should be of an administrative, and not of a political, character, and entirely independent of the Porte; if, however, he was ready to resign the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, we should no doubt welcome his appointment as President of the Commission. Said Pasha, after long discussion, said that, in view of my objections, his appointment would not be proceeded with. I thanked his Excellency for showing so much deference to the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, and expressed the hope that the Porte would be able to find for the post a good independent man whose appointment would meet with the approval of the Powers.

No. 214.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 557.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 30, 1895, 11·40 P.M.

I HAVE sounded the Ambassadors as to what answer should be returned to the Patriarch's Circular letter which formed the subject of my telegram No. 552 of to-day.

The situation in the provinces is very bad, though no fresh disturbances have been reported during the last twenty-four hours, and I think something ought to be done besides individual representations, of which but little notice is taken by the Porte.

No. 215.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 558.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 30, 1895, *midnight.*

IN view of the action of the Porte in persisting, in spite of our representations, in their refusal to communicate the plan of reforms to the Armenian Patriarch, I, to-day, having previously obtained the approval of the Russian and French Ambassadors, handed to his Beatitude printed copies of the reforms, and of the correspondence accompanying them.

I propose to-morrow to renew my request to the Grand Vizier to have the reforms communicated to the Patriarch, and, in the event of his refusing, I shall request permission for his Beatitude to print an Armenian translation of the reforms in the form of a pamphlet for distribution among his people.

No. 216.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 561 A.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 30, 1895, 11·50 P.M.

MY telegram of to-day No. 555.

I have to ask for your Lordship's instructions as to whether I should continue to take the initiative in measures for the protection of the missionaries, who, although distributing English Relief Fund, are all American citizens. The United States' Minister appears to think it is for me to take the first steps.

No. 217.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, October* 30, 1895.

WITH reference to the telegram addressed to me by your Lordship No. 69, I have the honour to report that His Majesty the Emperor has expressed his qualification at these assurances through Count Goluchowski, and also His Majesty's personal wish that in questions connected with the Mediterranean and South-East Europe there should be the most thorough understanding with Her Majesty's Government.

No. 218.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 559.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 31, 1895, 12·15 A.M.

WITH reference to Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 516 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report that I have been informed by the Russian Ambassador that he considered that the claim which, as he understood, was being advanced by the Representatives of the other Powers to the right of communicating with the Commission of Control through their Dragomans would only increase the difficulty of arriving at a joint decision as to recommendations to be made to the Porte, and that he was therefore opposed to it.

M. de Nelidoff also said that he did not see why the advantages which had been obtained by the efforts of France, Russia, and England should be shared by the other Powers. He had, however, received no instructions on the subject from his Government, and was expressing only his personal opinion.

In a conversation with Mr. Murinitch, the Russian First Dragoman uttered a similar opinion.

No. 219.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 560.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 31, 1895, 12·30 A.M.

MY telegram of yesterday No. 558.

At my interview with the Patriarch I asked him to distribute copies of the plan of reforms which I had given him, and made an earnest appeal to his Beatitude to do all in his power to tranquillize his people, and induce them to keep the peace.

The Patriarch promised me that he would do his utmost to carry out my wishes, and said that, now that the three Embassies had communicated to him officially a copy of the reforms, he would telegraph to the Armenian Bishops in the Anatolian provinces informing them of the issue of the reforms, and instructing them to advise the people not to resort to violence, but await with confidence the execution of the reforms.

He then went on to point out with considerable warmth that the question of the reforms had become now only of secondary importance; that we had now a question of life and death confronting us; that unless the Powers at once took some action to prevent the recurrence of the massacres which were occurring in all quarters of the Empire the entire Armenian population of Turkey would soon be exterminated.

No. 220.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 561.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 31, 1895, 10 A.M.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush telegraphed yesterday that he had received no further news from Bitlis during the day, and that things at Mush were quiet, and some shops were open, but that the town was full of Kurds.

Mr. Hampson reports that the Kurds are murdering and robbing in every direction, and that six villages in the plain were pillaged during the night of the 29th. He had also heard that the Kurds had pillaged the large village of Koultouk, two hours from Bitlis, and had killed many Armenians.

No. 221.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 562.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 31, 1895, 10·15 A.M.*

MR. HAMPSON telegraphed from Mush last night that the situation is most serious in that vilayet, and that he fears much for Sasun. He believes the authorities are unable to control the Kurds, who are everywhere attacking the Armenian villages, murdering the chief men, and committing every excess.

No. 222.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 563.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 31, 1895, 11·10 A.M.*

THE Acting British Consul at Erzeroum telegraphs that disturbances occurred there yesterday, that the Turkish mob pillaged the Armenian shops, and that the number of killed and wounded on both sides was considerable. The Armenians, he says, were still continuing a desultory fire from their houses.

The military authorities appear to have displayed great activity in restraining the Mussulman mob.

No. 223.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 564.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 31, 1895.*

WITH reference to the withdrawal of the American missionaries from Mush, Vice-Consul Hampson telegraphs to-day as follows:—

"The Mussulmans pretend to believe that the missionaries are inciting the Armenians of Sasun to attack Mussulmans of Mush, and this is the reason why they demanded their recall. I fear I did not make this clear in my telegram of the 28th October.

"Missionaries themselves are most unwilling to leave Sasun, fearing the worst results from panic which would ensue there. Mutessarif, who is violently anti-Protestant, absolutely refused to take any responsibility or give an opinion. All the principal Mussulmans adhere to their demand. The Armenians dread a massacre next Friday.

"I hope I shall be excused, under these circumstances, for having this evening made the following communication to the Mutessarif, as if from the Embassy:

"'If the Mutessarif states that the recall of missionaries is necessary for the tranquillity of Mush, you may recall them temporarily. Anyhow, the Mutessarif is responsible for the safety of missionaries, and for the tranquillity of Mush.'

"Mutessarif at last gave a formal answer, which I told him I would communicate to you. He said that although inhabitants of Mush demanded recall of missionaries, he saw no necessity for it, and in any case he would guarantee there would be no disturbance here.

"I think, under the circumstances, that the recall of the missionaries would risk a panic in Sasun, and would be humiliating."

Mr. Hampson reports that from all sides he hears of more murders and outrages by Kurds.

No. 224.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 565.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 31, 1895.*

MR. BARNHAM telegraphs that the attitude of Mussulmans at Aleppo is very threatening, and the general situation becomes worse every day.

The Zeitounlis have surrounded the Turkish troops between Zeitoun and Marash, and reinforcements of Reserves are still leaving Aleppo.

It will have very serious consequences if, as is possible, the Turkish troops are beaten. The Ferik of Acre will arrive at Aleppo to-morrow to take command of the expedition.

The disturbances at Beilan have not been confirmed.

No. 225.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 566.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 31, 1895, 6·45 P.M.*

I HAVE sent the following telegram to Mr. Hampson with reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 564 of the 31st October:—

"In view of promise of Mutessarif, American Minister desires missionaries to decide for themselves whether they will leave at present."

No. 226.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 199.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 31, 1895, 4·30 P.M.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 553 of yesterday, stating that the Porte had communicated to the Dragoman of Her Majesty's Embassy an application from the Minister of the Interior for the recall of the American missionaries from the Sasun district.

I approve your intention to leave this communication unnoticed.

No. 227.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 200.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 31, 1895, 11 P.M.*

I ENTIRELY approve your proceedings in connection with the question of communicating to the Armenian Patriarch the plan of reforms, as reported in your telegram No. 558 of yesterday.

No. 228.

Said Pasha to Morel Bey.—(Communicated by Morel Bey, November 1.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 1er Novembre, 1895.*

LE 30 Octobre, quelques jeunes Arméniens se sont rendus à l'Hôtel du Gouvernement à Erzeroum et ont tiré sur le Commandant de la Gendarmerie, sans l'atteindre; mais l'un d'eux ayant tué un sous-officier à coups de revolver, les fonctionnaires de garde ont riposté, et pendant la fusillade les dits Arméniens furent tués.

Une panique s'en est suivie, et dans la bagarre qui eut lieu entre Musulmans et Arméniens, une cinquantaine de personnes furent tuées et blessées de part et d'autre.

Grâce aux mesures promptes et énergiques prises par les autorités Impériales, l'ordre et la sécurité sont rétablis.

Un Arménien qui avait, pendant l'incident, recommandé à ses coreligionnaires de fermer leurs boutiques, a été arrêté.

Une enquête est ouverte à propos de ces événements.

No. 229.

Said Pasha to Morel Bey.—(Communicated by Morel Bey, November 1.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 1er Novembre*, 1895.

D'APRÈS des nouvelles reçues de Marach le Colonel Commandant de la caserne de Zéitoun et les 400 soldats qui s'y trouvent sont cernés par un nombre très considérable d'insurgés Arméniens.

Les Arméniens de Marach, armés, se seraient de leur côté réunis par groupes dans leurs maisons et n'attendent qu'un signal de Zéitoun pour se livrer à des excès.

D'autres Arméniens arrivant de tous les côtés incendient et détruisent les villages Musulmans des districts d'Andrine et d'Elbistan.

Le Vali d'Alep télégraphie de son côté qu'avant-hier le prêtre Khorène, domicilié à Seferelias, s'est rendu de nuit à Ourfa pour se concerter clandestinement avec les Arméniens de la ville.

Dès son retour vingt Arméniens sont sorti de la maison qu'il venait de quitter et ont tiré des coups de feu sur la patrouille qui passait et ont blessé un zaptié.

No. 230.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 567.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 11 A.M.

I AM making urgent representations to the Sublime Porte about the following telegram which I received from Mush to-day:—

"A letter dated yesterday states that the missionaries in Bitlis are in imminent peril. Unless help arrives quickly for both Bitlis and elsewhere, I fear few Christians will be spared. The Protestant pastor at Boulanik was killed last night. Many of the former pupils of missionaries have been killed. Being practically besieged by Kurds, the missionaries are unable to telegraph."

No. 231.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 568.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 11 A.M.

MR. HAMPSON telegraphs to-day that neither the authorities nor others have detailed news from Bitlis, but he fears that number killed is very large, and the town is in a most unsafe condition. In one church alone he hears that there are over 400 bodies not yet claimed.

At Mush the disorder is worse again to-day, and all the shops are shut. Mr. Hampson adds that the Mussulmans now demand not only the recall of missionaries, but that the Armenians should sign a Petition for his own recall.

No. 232.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 569.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 11 A.M.

ON 31st October Mr. Hampson telegraphed as follows:—

"I had a meeting this evening with the chief Armenians and Mussulmans of the town, at the invitation and in the presence of the Mutessarif, to discuss the question of the public peace and the missionaries. We finally agreed that the missionaries should leave Sasun as soon as possible, and direct the relief work from Mush, that the Mutessarif should send two officials to be present at the distribution of relief, and that, in this way, peace would be insured, and all suspicion averted.

"This gives us all we ask for, as it appears that the missionaries already intended to leave for Mush in a fortnight to direct operations from there, and the Turkish Committee was always supposed to have cognizance of the proceedings of the missionaries.

"This meeting has, in my opinion, contributed greatly towards assuring the maintenance of order here."

No. 233.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 570.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 11 A.M.

IN continuation of his telegram repeated in my telegram No. 565 of yesterday, Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo now telegraphs that, in view of the fact that the present garrison of Aleppo, which is composed entirely of people of the town, would, in the event of a rising there, probably refuse to fight against their fellow-citizens, he considers it most urgent that it should be at once sent away, and replaced by troops from another vilayet. I will urge the Sublime Porte to adopt the suggestion put forward by Mr. Barnham.

No. 234.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 571.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 11 A.M.

THE Acting British Consul at Erzeroum telegraphed yesterday that the number of those killed is estimated at about sixty, of whom the large proportion were Armenians. There were a great many wounded, and many Armenian shops were plundered.

He reports that things are now quieter, though occasional firing still continues from Armenian houses.

No. 235.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 572.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 11·10 A.M.

THERE was a partial run on the Ottoman Bank yesterday, and a regular panic in local financial circles. The situation is very serious, but fortunately the fact of to-day being a holiday will give time to the Bank.

No. 236.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 573.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 9·40 P.M.

I HAVE this morning sent the following telegram to Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo in reply to his telegram repeated to your Lordship in my telegram No. 570 of to-day's date:—

"The Grand Vizier states that, according to his information, Aleppo is quiet, and, the number of Armenians there being inconsiderable, his Highness does not anticipate trouble.

"As to your suggestion for changing the entire garrison at Aleppo, he does not see how that can be done, but there is probably a movement of troops there, as some are being sent to relieve Zeitoun, and others will take their places.

"His Highness hopes to be able to change the Vali of Aleppo, with whom he is not at all pleased."

No. 237.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

No. 574.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 9·55 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 560 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, as the reports received from some of Her Majesty's Consuls accuse the Armenians of having been the aggressors in many places, I renewed my representations to the Patriarch to-day, requesting him to do all in his power to calm his people.

His Beatitude pleaded that he could not control the revolutionary movement, the magnitude of which he freely admitted, and added that it was inspired by Russian agents, and that money was sent from Tiflis to Erzeroum to support the agitation.

After much pressure, however, his Beatitude consented to send a Circular telegram exhorting the Armenians to be patient and remain quiet in view of the approaching publication and execution of the reforms.

No. 238.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 575. Very Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 10·4 P.M.

IN order to relieve the financial situation, as reported in my telegram No. 572 of to-day's date, Sir Edgar Vincent has applied to the Turkish Government to decree a three or six months' *moratorium*, and makes any further advance of money, of which the Porte is urgently in need, dependent on their complying with his request, which the Council of Ministers met this afternoon to consider. A general financial crash here is inevitable should the Government refuse to grant the *moratorium*, or to relieve the situation in some other way.

No. 239.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 576.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 10·30 P.M.

ACTING British Consul at Erzeroum reports that the massacres which occurred there yesterday have proved to be much more serious than was at first supposed.

The Mussulman mob, which had been prepared for several days beforehand, made an attack on the Armenian shops, massacred all the Armenians they could, and then

commenced a general pillage. Simultaneously with the attack by the mob, the Armenians fired on the gendarmes inside the Government house and killed one.

Mr. Cumberbatch visited the scenes of the disturbances this morning and found very few shops untouched; he counted 210 dead bodies of Armenians, and there were many more he did not see, and the number of wounded is very great. He reports that no harm has come to the members or property of the American Mission. He says further that at Bitlis 39 Mussulmans and over 120 Armenians were killed, and that news has reached Erzeroum from Kharput that disturbances had occurred there on the 23rd October.

No. 240.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 577.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 10·40 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 30th ultimo No. 556, I have the honour to state that the Russian and French Ambassadors and myself have been sounded by the Porte as to our opinion respecting the proposed appointment of Shefik Bey as President of the Commission of Control. Shefik Bey was formerly President of the Court of Appeal in Constantinople, and was last year appointed President of the Mush Commission.

We have replied that, in our opinion, the fact of his having served on the Mush Commission was an objection to his appointment, and that we did not consider him a man of sufficient importance for the post.

No. 241.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 578.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 11·15 P.M.

IN reply to Mr. Hampson's three telegrams of yesterday, repeated to your Lordship in my telegrams Nos. 567, 568, and 569 of the 1st November, I have informed him that the Grand Vizier, while admitting the difficulty of dealing with the Kurds, states that no news has reached him of the disorders, and that troops are being sent as quickly as possible into the disturbed districts.

I have approved the arrangements made by Mr. Hampson with the Mutessarif as regards the missionaries, and have told him to apply to the authorities for a guard if he considers himself to be in any danger.

No. 242.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 579.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 11·15 P.M.

MY telegram of 31st October No. 560.

I renewed my request to the Grand Vizier to-day for the publication of the reforms in the newspapers. If this were not done, I begged his Highness to allow the Patriarch to have an Armenian translation made for distribution among his people. His Highness replied that he hoped to be able to obtain permission from the Sultan within a day or two for the publication of the full text of the reforms in the Turkish official press. As soon as this was done, there could be no objection to the Patriarch printing an Armenian translation.

No. 243.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 580.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895, 11·25 P.M.

VICE-CONSUL HAMPSON telegraphs that, in view of the agreement arrived at with the Mutessarif as reported in my telegram to your Lordship No. 564 of yesterday, he will await further instructions before summoning the missionaries to Mush. The missionaries themselves think that, considering the anti-Protestant views of the Mutessarif, they are safer in Sasun than in Mush. Mr. Hampson recommends the transfer of the Military Commandant at Mush, Rahmi Pasha, who he says is old, incapable, and a fanatic.

No. 244.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 581.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895.

ACTING on my instructions, Mr. Block called on the Grand Vizier to-day, and again drew his Highness' serious attention to the gravity of the situation in the provinces.

His Highness gave him the most emphatic assurances that the Government were doing their best to restore order, and had sent orders to the Moslems in all parts of the Empire not to resort to vengeance, but to keep quiet. His Highness was fully alive to the dangers which threaten the Ottoman Empire if the present state of affairs was allowed to continue, but he maintained that the Armenians had been the aggressors in every instance, acting under orders from the Armenian Societies, and that they did everything to provoke the Mussulmans to violence in the hope of forcing the foreign Powers to intervene. It was with the Armenians, therefore, that the responsibility for the disturbances lay.

The Turkish Government were honestly anxious to put a stop to the movement, but the gendarmerie and police alone were not equal to the task. Orders had therefore been given for calling out forty battalions of Reserves, and he trusted that on their arrival they would be able to restrain the Mussulman population.

My own impression is that both the Turkish Government and the Patriarch find themselves for the moment powerless to control the movement.

No. 245.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 202.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1895.

IN reply to the inquiry made in your telegram No. 561 A of the 30th ultimo, I see no objection to your taking the initiative in obtaining protection for the work of the Armenian missionaries while they are engaged in distributing to the Armenians the relief funds subscribed in England.

As regards their personal safety generally, however, it is clearly the United States' Minister who ought to make representations, and who can do so most effectively.

No. 246.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 582.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 2, 1895, 8 P.M.

MR. BARNHAM has received the following information as to the state of affairs at Ourfa from the Armenian Bishop at Aleppo, who says he begs Embassy to communicate these facts to the Patriarch, as his telegram would not be forwarded.

On Sunday, the 27th October, some Turks entered the Armenian quarter of Ourfa, and killed an Armenian. The aggressors were imprisoned, but a mob of Arabs, Kurds, and Turks sacked the Armenian quarter next day, wounding and killing a great many. This mob was then joined by some Hamidieh, and broke open shops which had been closed at the disturbance, and looted everything.

Only thirty or forty regular troops and a few police were in the town at the time, the total population being 32,000. The authorities then called out the Reserves from villages near, but they joined the others in killing and plundering.

No. 247.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 583.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 2, 1895, 8 P.M.

BRITISH Vice-Consul at Van reports that the Kurds have plundered the villages of Arjish, and several men have been murdered. The tradesmen of Arjish have closed their shops and come to Van. Large numbers of Armenians—men, women, and children—have arrived in boats from villages of Adeljevaz, having been plundered of everything by Haideranli Kurds. Mr. Hallward says that the arrest and punishment of responsible Kurdish Chiefs is absolutely necessary to prevent other serious outrages. In districts of Bashkale and Garzan, in the Vilayet of Van, and in Khizan and Bitlis Vilayet, extensive robberies and several murders have occurred.

No. 248.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 584.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 2, 1895, 8·10 P.M.

ORDERS to the effect that, if Christians were touched by Mussulmans, latter would be fired upon, were sent by the Grand Vizier to Governors of provinces last night.

No. 249.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 585.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 2, 1895, 10·25 P.M.

I RECEIVED this evening a telegram from Mr. Cumberbatch, who reports that yesterday the state of Erzeroum was quiet. On 30th October forty-one soldiers and two officers were wounded slightly, and six soldiers were killed; number among Mussulman civilians not yet reported.

Last night the dead bodies of Armenians amounted to over 300. The participation in excesses by soldiers has been established by personal visit to the pillaged houses and interrogation of surviving inmates.

Mr. Cumberbatch asks for Consular assistance.

No. 250.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 586.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 2, 1895, 10·25 P.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs that an attack was made on the 31st ultimo by Hamidiehs on a large caravan belonging to Armenian merchants on the road between Semoodj and Ourpat. Sixty-two bales of merchandize, valued at 1,000*l.*, fifteen mules, and 90*l.* in cash carried off.

No. 251.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 587.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 2, 1895, 10·45 p.m.*

I COMMUNICATED Mr. Hampson's telegram of 1st November, repeated to your Lordship in my telegram No. 569 of the same date, to the American Minister, at whose request I have now sent the following telegram to Mr. Hampson:—

"Inform missionaries in name of United States' Minister that, in view of the agreement arrived at between you and the Mutessarif, they should do whatever in their opinion offers the least risk, and must consult their own safety."

No. 252.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 588.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 2, 1895, 10·50 p.m.*

THE Sultan has to-day decreed the *moratorium* for four months referred to in my telegram No. 575 of yesterday. This step has produced a deplorable moral effect, though there appears to be a quieter feeling in financial circles. The run on the Ottoman Bank to change their notes for gold still continues, and it is possible that if it does not cease by Monday the Bank may have temporarily to suspend payment of bank notes pending the arrival of the gold which is on its way here.

In return for the *moratorium* Vincent will make no advance to the Government.

No. 253.

The Marquess of Dufferin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, November 2, 1895.*

IN the absence of my Minister for Foreign Affairs, I addressed a note last night to M. Bourgeois, President of the Council, in the sense of your Lordship's telegram No. 147 of the 1st instant.

No. 254.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, November 2, 1895, 4·15 p.m.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram of yesterday has been acted on. The Imperial Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs stated that he yesterday received a telegram from Constantinople, reporting that the agitation in the Turkish provinces was increasing. No further details, however, were given.

Baron von Marschall repeated that the Imperial Government earnestly desired to co-operate with other Powers in order that this alarming state of affairs might be brought to an end.

No. 255.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 2, 1895.*

PRINCE LOBANOFF, to whom I have communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 215, told me that Mr. Herbert would, no doubt, be supported in his representations by M. de Nélidoff, whose instructions were to act with his colleagues in all cases where loss of life could be prevented by prompt action.

According to reports received from M. de Nélidoff, Prince Lobanoff continued, serious disturbances were apprehended, as the excitement among the Turks in Constantinople against the Government, and even the Sultan, was daily increasing. In consequence of this, instructions had been sent to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople to concert with his colleagues as to the proper measures to be taken, in the event of any serious outbreak, for the protection of their respective nationals; and Prince Lobanoff had also impressed upon his Excellency the importance of conducting such deliberations with the greatest prudence, in order to avoid any premature alarm. He added that he hoped Mr. Herbert would receive similar instructions from your Lordship.

No. 256.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 2, 1895.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 74 of the 1st instant, I am informed by Count Goluchowski that, as the Ambassadors are doing their utmost to save the Turkish Government from the consequence of its own apathy, it appears to him useless to send them any further instructions.

No. 257.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 2, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to the scheme of Armenian reforms, that the Powers of the Triple Alliance will formally demand that it should be communicated to their respective Embassies, unless the Porte does so officially and of its own accord.

This attitude is based by Count Goluchowski upon the rights given to the Signatory Powers by the Treaty of Berlin, with the provisions of which it is necessary to conform.

No. 258.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Washington, November 2, 1895.*

I HAVE communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 53 to the United States' Government, who have received from their Minister at Constantinople the following telegram, dated the 2nd November: "The missionaries at Bitlis inform me, by telegraph, that they are in great danger, but still safe. I have secured the renewed issue of orders for their protection by telegraph."

No. 259.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 203.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1895.

I APPROVE your action, as reported in your telegram No. 577 of the 1st instant.

The connection of Shefik Bey with the Sasun Commission of Inquiry would render his appointment as President of the Commission of Control very objectionable.

Recall to the notice of the Grand Vizier his suggestion of Hassan Fehmi Pasha as President (see Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 517 of the 21st ultimo), and express the great disappointment of Her Majesty's Government at the abandonment of this proposal, as a high opinion was formed of Hassan Fehmi Pasha when he came on a Special Mission to this country.

You will, in Sir P. Currie's opinion, find that both the French and Russian Ambassadors will be ready to support you strongly in advocating Hassan Fehmi Pasha's qualifications.

No. 260.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 364.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1895.

I HAVE received Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 706 of the 22nd ultimo, reporting the representation made to the Armenian Patriarch by the Austrian, Russian, and British Embassies at Constantinople with a view to checking, through his intervention, the continuance of the agitation fostered in the capital by the Armenian Revolutionary Committees.

His Excellency's action in this matter is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 261.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 366.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1895.

I HAVE received Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 710 of the 23rd ultimo, reporting the protest made by him on learning the promotion to a higher appointment at Trebizond of Mohammed Farzi, whose dismissal from his post as head of the police at Mush had been demanded in consequence of the forcible entry by the police into the house occupied by the Consular Delegates with the Sasun Commission.

His Excellency's action in this matter is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 262.

Said Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(Communicated by Rustem Pasha, November 3.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 2 *Novembre*, 1895.

LE Vali de Diarbékir télégraphie que le 26 Octobre courant (v. s.) les Arméniens ont attaqué les mosquées du chef-lieu pendant que les Musulmans y faisaient leurs prières du Vendredi, et ayant tiré des coups de feu, il en est résulté des désordres dans la ville. Il y a eu de part et d'autre quelques morts et blessés; mais des mesures

No. 261*.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 3, 3 P.M.)

(No. 591.)
(Telegraphic. *En clair.*) *Therapia, November* 3, 1895, 12·15 P.M.

A N Iradé is published to-day appointing Shefik Bey President of the Commission of Control. The other Mussulman members are Djemal Bey, Director of the Agricultural Bank; Abdullah Bey, Member of the Council of State; Djemal Bey, President of Criminal Section of Court of Appeal. Christian members are Constantine Carathéodori, Member of the Council of State, Greek; Sakyz Ohannes Effendi, Public Prosecutor for Accountant-General's Office, Catholic Armenian; and Dilber Effendi, formerly Assistant Under-Secretary of Minister of Justice, and one of Legal Advisers of the Porte, Armenian Gregorian.

énergiques sont prises pour rétablir l'ordre. Un incendie qui avait éclaté au bazar a été étouffé aussitôt.

Le Gouverneur de Marache télégraphie de son côté que le Lieutenant Hassan Agha, sa femme et ses enfants en bas âge, au moment où ils se rendaient de Keulksoun à Marache, ont été attaqués en route par les Arméniens de Zéitoun, qui les ont mis à mort de la manière la plus cruelle et se sont emparés de leurs effets. 300 de ces émeutiers ont aussi fait irruption sur le village de Goucherké et enlevé aux villageois 300 têtes de bétail et leurs effets domestiques.

Le Vali d'Erzeroum télégraphie que les autorités Impériales l'ayant informé que quelques Chefs de tribus Kurdes de Plounier s'étaient rendus à la tête d'un certain nombre d'individus à l'endroit appelé Tchaltché, à une heure de distance de Kighi, dans le but d'attaquer les Arméniens, un certain nombre de Musulmans ont été armés, et aidés par les gendarmes et les soldats, se sont mis à la poursuite de ces Kurdes, et les ont dispersés avant qu'ils aient pu réaliser leur projet.

No. 263.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 3.)

(No. 589.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 3, 1895.

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs that yesterday afternoon two individuals, neither being an Armenian, had some trifling quarrel, whereupon a large mob of Mussulmans armed with clubs suddenly assembled from every quarter of the city. They raised a cry that now was the moment to kill the Christians and plunder their houses, and nothing but the energy of the Ferik prevented a massacre.

Mr. Barnham reports that the town is still in a state of panic.

No. 264.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 3.)

(No. 590.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 3, 1895, 11·20 A.M.

THE Representatives of the Powers are to meet at 4 o'clock to-morrow to discuss the present situation.

Does your Lordship wish to send me any instructions?

No. 265.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 3.)

(No. 592.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 3, 1895, 12·15 P.M.

MY immediately preceding telegram.

Shefik Bey has been appointed President of the Commission in spite of our strong representations. The appointments of Sakys and Carathéordory are considered good ones.

Djelal was, like Shefik, a member of the Mush Commission. Abdullah and Dilber seem to have no special qualifications to serve on the Commission, Dilber's chief title to fame being his great experience at cards.

I will consult the Russian and French Ambassadors as to what attitude we should adopt.

No. 266.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 593.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 3, 1895, 7·35 P.M.*

ACCORDING to a telegram received by M. Cambon from the French Consul at Diarbekir, that town has been for three days the scene of continuous fighting, and many people have been killed.

Five hundred Christians have taken refuge in the French Consulate, which is practically besieged.

M. Cambon has made strong representations to the Grand Vizier, who has made his usual reply that the Armenians were the aggressors, having attacked the Mussulmans in the mosques.

The French Consul, however, declares that there is absolutely no truth in this statement.

No. 267.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 594.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 3, 1895, 7·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 592 of to-day, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have spoken to the French Ambassador respecting Sheik Bey's appointment.

M. de Nélidoff is gone for a trip to Prince's Islands, but returns to-morrow morning, and M. Cambon wishes to consult him before expressing an opinion. We are all three to have a meeting to-morrow.

No. 268.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 595.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 3, 1895, 7·30 P.M.*

THE Acting British Consul at Erzeroum telegraphs that there have been no further disorders there, but that all the Armenian villages in the surrounding districts have been plundered by large marauding bands; that at Erzinjian over 200 Armenians and a few Turks were killed; at Bitlis over 120 Armenians and 30 Turks.

Mr. Cumberbatch reports that at Erzeroum some Mussulman rioters and several supposed Armenian revolutionists have been arrested.

He says that Shakir Pasha and the Vali are making efforts to recover loot, and have acted humanely in connection with the recovery of dead bodies and the attendance of the wounded Armenians, which Mr. Cumberbatch and his colleagues had at once taken in hand.

No. 269.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 596.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 3, 1895.*

THE Acting British Consul at Erzeroum telegraphs that a slight disturbance occurred there this afternoon.

He further reports that a meeting of the Consular Body had been held, when it was unanimously decided that, in view of the undoubted participation of the soldiers in the recent massacre and pillage, they should inform their respective Embassies that it was necessary for the re-establishment of tranquillity that their immediate trial and punishment should be demanded of the Turkish Government, and that a stop should be put to the wholesale imprisonment of supposed revolutionary Armenians.

No. 270.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 206.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 3, 1895.*

I HAVE repeated to you Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 106 of yesterday, reporting the instructions sent to M. de Nélidoff to concert with his colleagues as to measures for the protection of foreigners in the event of serious disturbances at Constantinople.

You will, of course, be ready to take part in any deliberations which the Russian Ambassador may invite for this purpose, and you should report to me the result of any such consultation.

You are at liberty, if you think it desirable, to inform your colleagues that it is proposed to move the British Squadron to Salonica from Lemnos, and you may also acquaint the Grand Vizier.

No. 271.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 208.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 3, 1895.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 590 of to-day, requesting instructions in view of the proposed meeting of foreign Representatives to-morrow to consider the situation.

Your proceedings hitherto have my entire approval, and you should continue to act on the same lines. You should associate yourself with your colleagues in any representation or other action which may be judged by the meeting to be desirable with the object of saving further loss of life.

The missionaries should be induced, as far as possible, to avoid exposing themselves to danger.

No. 272.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 216.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 3, 1895.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 106 of the 2nd instant, reporting the instructions sent to M. de Nélidoff, with a view to the adoption of measures for the protection of foreigners in case of a renewal of disorders at Constantinople, and Prince Lobanoff's hope that Her Majesty's Representative might receive similar instructions.

You can inform his Excellency that I have telegraphed to Mr. Herbert in the sense desired.

No. 273.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 717.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 24, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which I have received from a M. Pisani respecting the critical state of affairs at Kerassunde, in the Sandjak of Trebizond.

I am calling the attention of the Sublime Porte to the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 273.

M. Pisani to Sir P. Currie.

Your Excellency, *Kerassunde, October* 4 (16), 1895.

I THINK it my duty to inform your Excellency that the frightful events of Constantinople, and especially those of Trebizond, provoked the excitement of the Turks to a high pitch here too, and since a week people is in a state of terror, waiting any moment for the slaughter to begin.

To-day about 11 o'clock A.M. the alarm was given, and in a second everything was pell-mell: shops closing in hurry, people running right and left panic-stricken, others rushing into Foreign Offices asking refuge, and so on. Fortunately enough the Kaimakam rushed on the spot, and before a shot was fired, which evidently would have frightful consequences, appeased a little the minds for the time being, though what may happen in another second is quite unknown.

The authorities are taking apparently steps to keep order, but, being powerless, they will not be able to check the rush in case of emergency.

They have not but thirty soldiers against that horrible mob.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) W. G. PISANI.

No. 274.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 718.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 24, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Consular Agent at Ineboli respecting the state of affairs in that port.

I am calling the attention of the Sublime Porte to the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 274.

M. Velasti to Sir P. Currie.

Excellence, *Ineboli, le 16 Octobre*, 1895.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer qu'ensuite des événements qui nous entourent et des bruits inquiétants circulant depuis deux à trois jours à Ineboli j'ai cru nécessaire, vu surtout l'incapacité et manque d'énergie bien connus du Caïmacam de notre ville, Halil Nahiji, d'adresser ce jour une dépêche à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de Castamoni, le priant de vouloir bien prendre les mesures qu'il croirait nécessaires pour que l'Agence Consulaire de Sa Majesté Britannique soit respectée.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) V. VELASTI.

No. 275.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 719.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 24, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of further despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the recent disturbances in that town.

I have instructed my Dragoman to call the attention of the Grand Vizier to the premeditated character of the massacre, and to ask what measures are being taken to discover the guilty parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 275.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Trebizond, October* 12, 1895.

I HAVE this day noon informed your Excellency by wire that the casualties in the sanguinary disturbance here of Tuesday last are represented by the Turkish authorities to be 182 Armenians and 11 Turks killed, and 19 Armenians, 26 Turks, and 1 Greek wounded.

Although I strongly impressed upon the Vali, the Commissaries of Police, and the Commander of the Gendarmerie the wisdom of rendering the return as accurate as possible, the estimate given had better be received at present with all reserve.

The same may be said of the generally accepted, though possibly exaggerated, figure of 700 killed in the town itself, without counting those in the villages from where no reliable information has as yet reached me.

As regards the Turks, I believe few were hurt by Armenians in defence of their lives, while four Moslems, I have been assured, were killed by mistake.

It would appear that, with the exception of the Vali and the President of the Criminal Court, the civil and military authorities behaved disgracefully in the earlier part of the massacre.

The Greeks also, possibly from fear, refused in the majority of cases to shelter the hunted-down people in their shops and houses, schools and churches. It is evident, moreover, that all the others but the European element took part in the plundering.

There are serious reasons to suspect that the slaughter was encouraged, if not planned and ordered, by some officials.

Ever since the 2nd instant the Armenians in the streets and in the houses were being disarmed, and it was made known that all the other Christians were to be spared. It was even then said that the attack would begin at this Consulate.

I now hear it is not altogether my popularity that saved us, but the knowledge that we were armed and prepared for a disturbance.

Last Monday a secret interview between Bakri Pasha and Hamdi Pasha was overheard by a trustworthy person, and reported to me through my Dragoman. The one, it is stated, endeavoured to dissuade the other from discountenancing a massacre of the Armenians. This is very important and significant when taken with the following facts:—

1. Bakri Pasha is a Courdji of these parts, who seems to have unaccountably delayed his departure for Constantinople.

2. He was on the 2nd instant attacked at close quarters, hit only in the leg, and this by unknown persons.

3. Bands of Moslems were evidently armed and organized for a disturbance.

4. The Vali was on Tuesday morning purposely, it would seem, detained by paltry disputes in the bazaar away from the scene of the first outbreak.

5. Some one, supposed to be an Armenian, fired at a few unarmed soldiers.

6. The troops were turned out, and the officers ordered them to shoot at or towards Armenians in the square and in the houses.

7. The carnage there ceased only on the arrival of the Vali, who proclaimed that the Sultan had pardoned the Armenians.

8. The mob was so far under control that they spared the lives of women and children, and the looting of shops and houses was discriminately conducted.

9. Few Armenians tried to defend themselves and their property, most of them having escaped into the Consulates and public buildings, the Frères Mission-house having saved more than 2,000.

10. The Armenians who protected themselves and those hundreds in number who would not trust themselves to the authorities are now prisoners awaiting trial by court-martial.

I inclose herewith copy of a communication received by me last Monday evening from the Armenian Bishopric.

We are all anxiously awaiting to see what steps will be taken by the Powers to relieve the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 275.

Armenian Bishop's Vicar to Consul Longworth.

M. le Consul, *Trébizonde, le 25 Septembre* (*7 Octobre*), 1895.

LE Conseil Civil de la communauté Arménienne de Trébizonde a l'honneur de vous informer de ce qui suit.

Son Excellence le Gouverneur-General ayant appelé le Vicaire et quelques-uns des principaux de la communauté, leur a signifié en présence des Notables Turcs que malgré que le soulèvement de l'élément Turc pour massacrer les Arméniens ait été prévenu sans que cette menace pût se réaliser, le danger est loin d'être éliminé et il existerait tant que les deux garçons, qui, comme il prétend, ont tiré sur Bahri Pasha, ne sont pas arrêtés; le Gouverneur a ajouté en outre que ses efforts ne cesseraient pas d'être voués à la répression du soulèvement de l'élément Turc, mais qu'il ne pouvait pas les garantir de l'efficacité de ses mesures. Il les a engagés en conséquence, en croyant que la communauté connaît la cachette des garçons en question, à les consigner aux autorités comme unique moyen de rétablir la sécurité publique.

En présence de cette communication de cette nature [*sic*] que nous nous permettons de soumettre à votre judicieuse appréciation, et dans la terreur et la consternation complète de la communauté, nous venons vous prier de vouloir bien faire les démarches nécessaires soit auprès de son Excellence le Gouverneur, soit en employant toute voie que vous jugeriez opportune pour le salut public.

Daignez agréer, &c.
Le Vicaire des Arméniens de Trébizonde,
(Signé) Rev. MESROB THAHLAMIAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 275.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, October* 14, 1895.

IN connection with my foregoing despatches on the situation, I have the honour to report that confidence is being gradually restored.

The Turks are no longer allowed to go about armed, and the troops are conducting themselves well.

The court-martial is under the presidency of Major-General Salih Pasha, who on the 10th instant arrived with a battalion from Rizeh. It is endeavouring to prove, I understand, that the recent disturbance had arisen from an insurrectionary movement on the part of the Armenians.

A Commission of inquiry with troops from Constantinople appears to me necessary to relieve the situation. Should it come, the Vali, Cadri Bey, the President of Criminal Court of Appeal, Essad Bey, and a few others will, I hope, be found ready to expose the truth.

My own position at present is a difficult one. I cannot inspire in any one courage enough to bring me information of what is going on. I went out twice, calling on the Vali and the Consuls as well as on Salih Pasha, who, however, declined to receive me.

The Turks seemed thoroughly cowed, and no signs of ill-feeling towards me could I detect.

There is, I hear, a good deal of foolish talk about the views and wishes of Her Majesty's Government, but, with the exception of the ignorant, few give credence to such misrepresentations, taken mostly from the Turkish Crimean newspaper "Terdjuman."

On the evening of the 9th instant a telegram was received by the Greek Consul from his Legation that the Embassies had decided to send a Russian ship of war to Trebizond. I do not know what truth there is in this, but the Turkish authorities seemed to believe it, for they made it known to the public that such a vessel was expected on a friendly visit. Should she arrive it may, and I hope it will, create the impression that the Armenians are not altogether deserted.

The estimate of the houses and shops looted is not yet available. The Executive, however, is collecting the plunder, a wise and proper step, tending to show that no property can be retained acquired in a disturbance, and removing thus a great temptation to bring about another commotion.

I am glad to be able to state that the naturalized British subject, Kévork Arabian, reported by me as missing, has been found, and is now at the Consulate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

P.S. *October* 15.—I beg to confirm my last night's telegram, reporting the arrival here of the Russian cruiser "Teretz."

H. Z. L.

No. 276.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 4.)

(No. 721.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 26, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Angora, expressing the satisfaction of the Armenians of that district at the acceptance of the scheme of reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 276.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, October* 19, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge, with my best thanks to your Excellency, the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of yesterday's date, informing me that the Sultan has at length consented to adopt the scheme of reforms for the six Armenian vilayets, as proposed by the Representatives of England, France, and Russia.

Some of the leading Armenians in Angora called upon me to-day, and requested me to convey to your Excellency, in the name of the Armenians of this vilayet in general, their heartfelt thanks and respectful congratulations upon the success which has crowned your Excellency's representations on behalf of their kindred in Armenia, to the Sultan, and to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 277.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 722.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 26, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout respecting Mussulman agitation in Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 277.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Beyrout, October 14, 1895.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith reports received from the Vice-Consul at Caiffa regarding an alleged conspiracy amongst Mussulmans directed against Christians, both there and at Acre. When the first despatch was received, Mr. McGregor communicated in my absence with the Governor-General, who telegraphed to the authorities at each port for information.

On receiving the news at Sidon, I left for Beyrout and interviewed the Vali the same day. His Excellency stated that the authorities of Acre and Caiffa had respectively assured him that the reports were entirely devoid of foundation. With respect to Nessib-el-Yessin, mentioned in Dr. Schmidt's report as the ringleader of the conspirators, they said that he is merely the victim of the intrigues of the Mufti of Caiffa, who is opposing his election as a member of the Administrative Council of that district, by the circulation of reports tending to damage his reputation.

On learning that I had received a further report from the Vice-Consul stating that he is able to verify the facts, his Excellency offered to instruct the authorities to make fresh inquiries, and to take steps to insure the public peace.

During the course of my conversation with the Governor-General, he intimated to me that the presence of the British fleet at the entrance of the Dardanelles had undoubtedly alarmed all Mussulmans, and roused their patriotism and religious sentiments. Under these circumstances, it is to be feared that the agitation will spread rapidly throughout this country, and eventually culminate in an outbreak of fanaticism with deplorable consequences.

I beg, therefore, to submit that the presence of a ship on this coast, stationed at Beyrout during the present crisis, would have a salutary effect on the minds of the Turkish authorities, and strengthen my hands in case of an emergency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 277.

Vice-Consul Schmidt to Consul-General Drummond Hay.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Caiffa, October 9, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report that it seems that something serious is going on amongst the Moslems of Caiffa and those of Acre; several trustworthy men, some of them coming from Acre, assured me that the Acre Moslems, whose fanaticism is well known, are buying up all the fire-arms they can possibly get hold of, such as revolvers, guns, &c., no matter how dear they have to pay for them. Some Acre Moslems, who came to Caiffa for a wedding three days ago, tried even here to get such fire-arms, offering to pay any price for them. I am also repeatedly told that our Caiffa Moslems are trying to do the same here, and that they have secret meetings every night, presided

especially by Nejib-el-Yessin, about whom I had the honour to report already some weeks ago, and Hadj Assad, a brother of Nejib-el-Yessin. Mahmoud told my cavass to-day, that on the 15th of this month very serious things would happen, and that the soldiers, Redifs, and Muhafiz were gathered by Imperial order to fight against the "English," &c.

This, of course, he will deny whenever interrogated, but from other quarters I heard also that a *coup* is expected for the 15th instant, and that they only are awaiting a hint from Constantinople to unfurl the flag of their Prophet and act in consequence.

Colonel Massy, with whom I talked the matter over to-day, is also of my opinion, and thinks it most necessary too to report the whole matter to you, and to ask you kindly to see that some, or at least one, of Her Majesty's men-of-war should come forthwith to visit all the places of the Syrian coast to avoid the serious consequences of an outbreak of the Moslem fanaticism, and to calm the spirits here.

Of course I have to leave the whole matter to your wise judgment, but I did consider it my duty to submit to you what the last few days was repeatedly reported to me, adding that my colleagues here are reporting the same matter to their Consuls-General at Beyrout.

I beg, &c.
(Signed) Dr. J. SCHMIDT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 277.

Vice-Consul Schmidt to Consul-General Drummond Hay.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Caiffa, October 12, 1895.*

LAST evening I got the following telegram from Mr. Vice-Consul McGregor of the 11th instant:—

"Consul-General is at Sidon, but returns to-morrow. I have informed him. Please verify facts carefully and report further."

On this I have the honour to reply that, after personal inquiries, I have found it an absolutely true fact that some of the better class of the Acre and Caiffa Moslems, as well as some young people of the purely Moslem village Tireh, about 6 miles south-west from Caiffa, have tried here, in Caiffa, to buy up as many revolvers, cartridges, &c., as they could find, offering any price for them, and that some Acre Moslems, with a Caiffa leading man—a very fanatical Moslem, Sheikh Abdulla Sahli—have tried the same at Acre.

This co-operation of the Acre, Caiffa, and Tireh Moslems shows the accord of all the Moslems of the said places, in which it is believed those of the other places of the whole country—if not of the whole Empire—are participating.

I further hear that Caiffa Moslems said that all the Moslems of the Ottoman Empire would rise as soon as anything happened in or with Constantinople, and that official telegrams arrived here this week asking how many Redifs could be ready for immediate embarkment.

But I could not confirm the report that, just on the 15th instant, any serious thing would happen here, although it seems that this date has been mentioned; the question of the date is therefore yet uncertain.

I myself feel inclined to believe that the Moslems of the country are preparing themselves to be ready to advance in their fanatical zeal as soon as they get a *mot d'ordre* from Constantinople, if official or non-official, all the same. Their secret meetings are true too, and the most dangerous Moslems of Caiffa are Nejib-el-Yessin and Sheikh Abdulla Sahli.

This morning I have sent a reliable friend to Acre to inquire there; if necessary, I shall continue my report by next mail.

I beg, &c.
(Signed) Dr. J. SCHMIDT.

No. 278.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 723.)

Constantinople, October 26, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, transmitting a report from the British Vice-Consul at Sidon on the Druse and Metwali disturbances at Merj-Ayoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 278.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Beyrout, October 14, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith copy of a report received from the British Vice-Consul at Sidon on the late disturbances at Merj-Ayoun.

The despatch reached Beyrout during my absence at Jezin, in the Lebanon; but, as I returned by way of Sidon, I had an opportunity of seeing Dr. Abela personally, and obtaining full particulars as to the state of affairs.

He informed me that, since forwarding his report, he had learned that about 700 armed Christians had joined the Metwali against the Druses, and he believed that they had taken an active part in the question with the approval of the Maronite and Greek Catholic Bishops of the district.

The Kaïmakam of Sidon, who returned from Nabatiyeh before my departure, assured me that he had succeeded in establishing a truce, and hoped to bring about a peaceful settlement by convening a meeting of the Druse and Metwali Headmen.

I have seen the Governor-General, who informed me that, according to the report of his Kaïmakam, the first outrage was committed on a Christian, and not on a Metwali, as is generally supposed. I have, however, my doubts as to the accuracy of this assertion, as during my visits to Jezin and Sidon I met several persons, especially Christians, well acquainted with all the details, who assured me that no Christian blood had been spilt on either side. His Excellency laid the chief blame upon the Druses, who had driven the Metwali to desperation by their lawlessness; but he believed, on the other hand, that the Metwali were glad of a pretext to draw the attention of the authorities, and especially of the foreign Powers, to their lot, as he was aware that they longed to be included in the district of the Lebanon, and to enjoy the privileges of its administration, whereby they would become entitled to the appointment of a Metwali Kaïmakam over them.

His Excellency added that on his assuming the Governorship of the vilayet, he obtained the consent of the Porte to the establishment of a strong military post at Merj-Ayoun; but that the troops had gradually been withdrawn contrary to his wishes. He intended now to demand the re-establishment of the post, and also of another at Tyre, where the Metwali are in a large majority.

The Lebanon Druses took no part whatever in the disturbances, but they would probably have been drawn into the conflict if it had assumed graver dimensions.

I should also mention to your Excellency that a rumour was current in Sidon that I had passed through the disturbed country and had conferred secretly with the Druses. I was, therefore, not surprised at the inquisitiveness of the Vali during our interview as to my route, &c. I had, however, the satisfaction of informing his Excellency that when I left Beyrout I was entirely ignorant of the occurrences, and that, as it happened, I never entered either the Druse or Metwali districts.

I beg also to inclose a translation into French of a Metwali Proclamation issued after the conclusion of the truce. This document was handed to me at Sidon by the Vice-Consul, who is on friendly terms with the Chiefs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 278.

Vice-Consul Abela to Consul-General Drummond Hay.

Sidon, October 5, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on Thursday evening, the 3rd instant, the Kaïmakam of Sidon received a despatch from the Mudir of the Shukif, to the effect that the influential Metwali family of Haj Hassan Abdulla, of the village of Khuyam, in Merj-Ayoun, had appealed to their co-religionists in Nabatiyeh and elsewhere to come to their aid against the Druses, who were said to be collecting their forces for an attack upon them.

The Mudir reported his strenuous efforts to restrain the Metwali from responding to this appeal as only partially successful.

The Kaïmakam at once telegraphed the fact to the Wali, and also sent some gendarmes to the Shekif, and orders to the chief men of that region to restrain the people.

This morning Mustafa Bey, Major of the Gendarmerie, arrived from Beyrout with about twenty-five horsemen and a company of Dragoons, and orders from the Wali to the Kaïmakam to proceed with them to Nabatiyeh to restore order in that district by restraining the men from going to the disturbed locality. The Kaïmakam has asked for a still larger force.

So far as I have been able to ascertain the cause of this disturbance, it is that on Wednesday, the 2nd instant, a Metwali, having with him about 40,000 piastres, was robbed and killed near Banias. This outrage was attributed to the Druses, and revenge was taken by the Metwali of Khyam, who killed and cut in pieces the very same day a Druse horseman with his horse. Immediately the Druses of Hasbaya and Mejdel Shums, and their respective districts, gathered rapidly in said village from the districts of Bilad Bishara and Merj-Ayoun, Sidon, Tyre, and Baalbek. It is understood that the Metwali have been joined by numbers of the Kurds and Circassians, and that up to yesterday the number of the Druses gathered in the place referred to was 1,000, and of the Metwali 4,000, and that many on both sides are armed with Martini-Henry rifles. It is also said that Khalil Bey El-Assad, of Yayibeh, the leading man of the Metwali, on the one side, and Sheikh Hamad Kais, the religious head of all the Druses, assisted by Tahir Bey, Shams of Hasbaya, on the other side, took up their quarters between the contending forces, and seemed to make every effort to quell the disturbance, and the latest word is that the Druses, failing to receive the reinforcements they expected, have fallen back upon their stronghold at Mejdel Shams, and that their Sheikh, Hamad Kais, still insists upon a peaceful solution.

Notwithstanding this, the number of Metwali collected are rapidly increasing, so that to-day upwards of 10,000 of these are reported as gathered. This is owing to the stirring written and verbal appeals circulated to all the Metwali towns and villages openly announcing this as a religious war. Thus this whole region is now practically in a state of anarchy, and the matter is in danger of being further complicated by the reputed pressure brought to bear by both the contending factions to compel some of the few Christians who live among them to join them as allies.

If prompt measures are not taken to restore order the consequences may be very serious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SHIBLY ABELA, M.D.

Inclosure 3 in No. 278.

Metwali Proclamation.

(Translation.)

Respectables Cheiks,

LE but de la présente est de vous informer que Mostafa Bey est arrivé, qu'il a vu les armées, et qu'il a constaté que ces armées se sont attaquées à personne, mais que leur but est de se défendre.

Qu'il a aussi rencontré les Émirs de Hasbaya, à Khiam, venant de la part des

Druses, demandant la paix. Il a ensuite demandé aux Chefs de congédier les armées après leur avoir exprimé ses remercîments, et leur avoir assuré que le Gouvernement punirait les Druses, et qu'il sera content d'eux et avec eux, et qu'il n'est plus nécessaire de faire des démonstrations encore.

"Ainsi," continua-t-il, "congédiez les réunions et moi je suis garant qu'il n'arrivera aucune rixe."

Alors, la plupart des personnes réunies se sont retirées, mais une demi-heure après ils ont été de nouveau appelées par un exprès les hélant par: "Où sont les braves? Où est l'amour de la religion Musulmane?" A cet appel tous reviennent qui à Khiam, qui à Nabatié, mais aussitôt leur arrivée à Khiam, ils ont été de nouveau congédiés, et ont prévenu ceux qui se trouvaient encore en chemin pour les inviter à rentrer aussi.

Mais notez qu'il faut prévenir tout le monde d'être toujours sur les gardes de peur qu'il n'arrive une action traître.

Le Caïmacam est maintenant à Nabatié, mais le Cheik est parti Dimanche à Khiam, où il arrivera vers le soir, et tous les Chefs sont encore à Khiam.

On respire maintenant la paix, mais il est nécessaire de ne pas y trop compter, et dans une heure nous aurons des nouvelles que nous nous communiquerons aussitôt qu'elles seront reçues.

Les Druses paraissent repartis, et c'est pourquoi ils sont à chercher la paix. Nous ne savons si c'est là une réalité ou une tromperie, ou bien qu'ils ont vu le grand nombre de nos réunions et l'accord entre les Chiites et les Chrétiens, car ils sont sûrs de notre amitié, et que nous avons toujours été bienveillants envers eux, et en réalité ce que nous faisons c'est pour les défendre, et sans les Chiites il n'en resterait pas un seul.

Nous vous informons qu'actuellement toutes les mauvaises idées et les mauvaises dispositions se sont dissipées entre Chiites et Chrétiens, et nous sommes tous pour un seul principe, un seul cœur, cette alliance réjouira le Gouvernement qui cherche à éteindre les intrigues, et à réserver l'union et l'accord entre ses sujets et la destruction des intrigants.

Nous espérons que sous la sauvegarde du Gouvernement il n'arrivera que le bien, et tous ceux qui feront le mal ce mal retournera sur leurs têtes.

Voici ce que nous avons à vous informer, et son Excellence le Caïmacam est enchanté de tout le monde n'ayant rencontré de la part de personne rien qui puisse indisposer ou qui fasse du tort à personne.

Nous vous saluons,
(Signé) Le Conau.

No. 279.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 725.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 26, 1895.*

IN my despatch No. 719 of the 24th October, I have already had the honour to transmit to your Lordship reports which seem to prove that the Turkish troops at Trebizond took part in the recent massacre of Armenians. I have now received some further details on this subject from my Russian colleague.

It would appear that the night before the massacre the Secretary of the Russian Consulate visited the Vali, and heard orders being given to arm certain Lazes who had come in from the country. He subsequently saw the arms being issued. When M. de Nélidoff mentioned this story to Said Pasha, the latter said that it explained a telegram from the Governor of Trebizond, which he had hitherto been unable to understand. Kadri Bey had telegraphed to know if he could have arms and uniforms for 300 extra soldiers, and the Minister of War had replied that there were no uniforms forthcoming, but that he could have the arms. Kadri Bey's object, Said Pasha added, had doubtless been to increase the forces available for the protection of the town.

M. de Nélidoff also said there was evidence that the massacre had been perpetrated in a very deliberate manner. Only Gregorian Armenians had been killed, and in many cases where one house in a street belonged to an Armenian who was a Catholic or a

Russian subject, it and its inmates had been left untouched, though every other house had suffered.

He did not believe a report which had been current, that eight Armenians had been executed for the disturbance. Three Commissions had been formed at Trebizond: one military and exclusively Turkish, for investigating the massacre and discovering the guilty parties; the second, composed of Turks, Greeks, and Armenians, for estimating the damage done to property, and considering the best method of giving compensation; the third, also mixed, for giving aid to the widows and children of the victims of the disaster.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 280.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 726.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 26, 1895.*

IN accordance with instructions from their respective Ambassadors, the Dragomans of the British, French, and Russian Embassies called upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 26th instant, and handed to his Excellency the collective note drawn up in acknowledgment of the plan of reforms and Decree received from the Sublime Porte, copies of which were inclosed in Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 704 of the 22nd instant.

Said Pasha, to whom Mr. Marinitch read the collective note, made one reservation with regard to the references made in it to various previous communications of the Sublime Porte therein.

His Excellency maintained that all earlier schemes of reforms had been superseded on the acceptance by the Sublime Porte of the final Schedule drawn up by the Ambassadors.

The Dragomans pointed out to his Excellency that the communications referred to, having been addressed by the Sublime Porte to the Embassies, could not contain any points which had not received the sanction of the Turkish Government, but promised to lay the matter before their respective Ambassadors.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs at once submitted the collective note to the consideration of the Grand Vizier.

I am informed by M. de Nélidoff that Said Pasha made a further objection with regard to the extension of the reforms to cazas containing a considerable non-Mussulman population. This reservation appears, however, to have been made only to the Dragoman of the Russian Embassy, who remained with the Minister for Foreign Affairs after the others had left.

This reservation may possibly be alluded to in the acknowledgment of the collective note which the Sublime Porte has promised to send.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 281.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 727.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 29, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, inclosing a despatch from Vice-Consul Hallward, reporting a partial improvement in the state of affairs at Van. I am pressing for the dismissal of the officers mentioned, and for the appointment of a good Mutessarif to Hekkiari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 281.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 8, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch received from Mr. Vice-Consul Hallward, reporting a partial improvement that is visible at Van since the arrival of the new Vali, Nazim Bey, who proves to be a capable and painstaking Governor.

As to the general state of the province Mr. Hallward cannot report any improvement, the Kurds having recommenced their usual depredations. He expresses a hope to see further dismissals of subordinate officials, especially the Chief of Police and the Procureur-Général of Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 281.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Cumberbatch.

Van, October 2, 1895.

Sir,

NAZIM BEY, the new Vali, has now been here upwards of three weeks. He appears to be much more accessible to the complaints of the population than his predecessor, and is certainly a more capable and painstaking Governor. He does not leave the affairs of the province in the hands of his subordinates, but takes them as far as possible under his own supervision, and he appears to be inclined to do justice as far as he can. A zaptieh, who wounded an Armenian with his sword a few days ago in the bazaars, has been condemned to a year's imprisonment. This is the first act of justice which I have seen executed in Van on a Moslem official for an offence against a Christian, and it has produced a good impression in the town. The Vali has also given orders that revolvers and other objects taken by the police from the Armenians are to be restored, and a certain number have been given back to their owners. He has also instructed the Headmen of the villages that they are to collect the taxes in future instead of the zaptiehs, which will be an excellent change if carried out.

With regard to the Armenians in prison here, the Vali tells me that he has written to Constantinople recommending that they should all be released, both those in prison in the town and those in the district. I trust this recommendation may be duly taken into consideration at Constantinople, and ere long be put into effect.

On the whole, there is a decided feeling of relief among all classes of the townspeople at the termination of Bahri Pasha's brutal régime, and the inauguration of a milder system of rule. At the same time, I am afraid I cannot report any general improvement in the state of the province. The Kurds, who remained comparatively quiet for a time after Bahri Pasha's dismissal, have again begun to plunder Armenian villages, and to fight among themselves. Since the arrival of the present Vali robberies of cattle and sheep have taken place at Nabat, Chaknak, Voski Pagh, Khuno (Nestorian village), Hassan Tamiran, Akhorig, Sourptatos, and in the Shattakh district; and Hassan Pasha and Emin Pasha have been fighting among themselves, with several losses on both sides. No effective measures have hitherto been taken to check these proceedings, and unless an example is made of some of the more notorious Kurdish robbers, there is every reason to believe that this state of things will continue indefinitely. The Kurds have little or no fear of the Government, and it is to be feared that they will become more lawless than ever.

Mustafa Pasha, the Mutessarif of Hekkiari, a most corrupt and incompetent man, has resigned, and a certain Hassan Pasha, a native of Van, is going to take his place temporarily. It is to be hoped that a better and more capable man will be found to fill this post, as the present state of Hekkiari is about as bad as it can be.

No changes have yet been made among the Van officials, though, as I have frequently remarked, certain changes are most necessary in the interests of justice, the removal of Nouri Effendi, Head of Police, and of Emin Effendi, "Procureur-Général,"

being the most urgently needed. I believe the Vali is to a certain extent alive to the shortcomings of some of his subordinates, and I sincerely hope that he will see his way to having some of the more flagrant offenders dismissed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 282.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 728.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, October 29, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting a miscarriage of justice in connection with the murder of an Armenian boy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 282.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 8, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, giving an instance of a miscarriage of justice in connection with the murder of an Armenian youth by young Turks, in whose place two innocent boys have been arrested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 282.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Graves.

Mush, September 27, 1895.

Sir,

A TYPICAL instance of the way justice is administered here and of the difficulties in securing it has just occurred.

On the evening of Wednesday last, the 25th instant, the son and nephew of Sali Agha, a notable Mussulman of this town, deliberately shot an Armenian boy of 12 in a vineyard not half-a-mile from my tents. Armenian villagers were eye-witnesses of the murder.

I immediately sent to the police and informed them of the occurrence, expressing the hope that the criminals would be at once arrested; and received every assurance that justice would be done.

Sali Agha is, however, an important person. Consequently, two poor children of about 7 years old, who had nothing whatever to do with the affair, were arrested. The father of the victim was summoned, and, in his fright, identified these children as the murderers of his son; and the eye-witnesses of the crime were afraid to appear. Under the circumstances, there is, of course, nothing to be done, and so the murderers remain

absolutely unpunished because they happen to be relatives of Sali Agha, and owing to the miserable cowardice of the Armenian father and witnesses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. S. HAMPSON.

No. 283.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 729.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 29, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting on the condition of the prisoners at Mush.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 283.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October 9, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, in a despatch of the 29th ultimo, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush confirms his telegram of the 27th, announcing the release, on bail, the previous day, of the Armenian prisoner Erko, of Shenik.

Mr. Hampson also states that the Talori prisoner was lying in the hospital in a hopeless condition, the violent beating on the head being the immediate cause of this.

Up to the date of his despatch no order had been received to allow him to visit the prison, but he had heard that there had been a considerable improvement in the treatment of the prisoners during the last few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 284.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 730.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 29, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum on the subject of Shakir Pasha's mission and the projected measures of reform.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 284.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October 9, 1895.*

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Graves' despatch of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit the substance of an article which has appeared in the local official Gazette in connection with Shakir Pasha's mission.

I may also add that a plan has been drawn up by his Excellency's orders, and transmitted to Constantinople for approval, for the administrative reorganization of the villages in the Erzeroum plain. There will be three nahiehs, one of which is to be composed chiefly of Armenian villages, and will have an Armenian Mudir with a Turkish Momavin, whilst in the other two the position will be reversed.

These measures, which may probably be followed by similar ones, whether executed or not, are evidently intended to be considered in the light of reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 284.

Extracts from Erzeroum Official Gazette.

THE Commission, presided over by Danish Bey, appointed by Shakir Pasha to inquire into certain branches of the local Administration, found the accounts of the various financial Departments in order, but saw fit to recommend measures for the more regular payment of salaries.

In the Judicial Department, it was found that there were no Mustandiks (Examining Officers) attached to the Caza Tribunals, but that their work was being done by members of those Courts. This needed remedy, and in future the elected members (Intikhab) of the Courts should not be allowed to take their seats unless they know how to read and write. It was also notified that no one was to be imprisoned without the necessary legal order.

This Report having been submitted to the Vali, his Excellency issued Circular instructions accordingly.

The technical school, which has been closed for several years, is to be reopened for the benefit of poor boys who wish to learn a trade.

Civilians not being allowed into the military hospital any longer owing to superior orders, the President of the Municipality has been instructed by Shakir Pasha to build a special hospital for civilians.

Officials having been sent to examine and report on the roads leading from Erzeroum to the principal towns in the province, orders have been issued for repairs to be effected on those leading to Gumush-haneh, Erzinghan, and Bayazid, and guard-houses to be erected at intervals.

A special road to the forest of Ispir, for the transport of fuel, is recommended by Shakir Pasha, as well as the working of the coal mine near Erzeroum by the Municipality.

No. 285.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 731. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 29, 1895*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting on the critical state of things in that town.

I have approved Mr. Cumberbatch's action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 285.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, October 10, 1895.*

WITH reference to my previous despatch of this day's date, I have the honour to report that the news of the Constantinople disturbances, which your Excellency kindly communicated to me on the the 3rd instant, did not get known here till a day or two ago through Turkish official channels, but all the details are not yet publicly known.

In the present critical state of things it is anticipated that the news, as it spreads, will act as an incentive to Armenian agitation on the one hand, and as an encouragement for a display of Mussulman resentment on the other, should any incident arise locally to provoke it.

The military authorities have been ordered to stand by in case of an emergency, and, among other preparations, fifty rounds of cartridges have been served out to each soldier of this garrison, whilst the members of the police force have received special instructions to act with caution and tact.

The ostensible object is to prevent any Mussulman assault, though experience has shown that any move on the part of the Armenians would be suppressed with a strong and harsh hand.

In accordance with the express desire of Hakki Pasha, who does not conceal his anxiety, I have taken upon myself to strongly advise Mgr. G. Shismanian, the enlightened and energetic Armenian Archbishop of Erzeroum, whose official relations with the Vali are very strained owing to his attitude towards Shakir Pasha, to use whatever influence he and his Council may possess to restrain his co-religionists from committing any rash act which may, under the circumstances, lead to a conflict, and which would not in any way help towards a peaceable settlement of the questions at issue.

I have received that prelate's assurances that he had used, and will continue to use, every means in his power to preserve public peace on their side as he fully recognizes the danger and futility of such conduct, but he had to admit that neither he nor his Council had any control over the desperate actions of the "Hintchakists," now in such force in this town and district, and that the otherwise peaceably-disposed Armenians, especially those in the outlying districts, were so exasperated by the sufferings they are made to bear at the hands of Turks and Kurds, that there is no knowing what reckless action they may not be capable of taking part in.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 286.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 732.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 29, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the assassination of alleged informers by agents of the Revolutionary Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 286.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October 11, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the emissaries of the revolutionary or "Hintchakist" party are credited with the murder on the 5th instant of two Armenians of some position in this town named Artin Effendi Serkissian, a lawyer, and Simon Agha Bosoyan, a merchant. They were stabbed in a most daring manner in a crowded thoroughfare, and both died immediately afterwards. One man, a Russian Armenian, of this place, has been arrested on suspicion.

It is generally thought that Artin Effendi was killed because he was suspected of having acted as an informer, and because he had quite recently refused to join the Secret Committee being formed here. It was not intended to injure Simon Agha, but he must have got mortally wounded in defending his friend.

At Erzinghan, some ten days ago, another Armenian, called Garabet Der Garabet, was also murdered. He was considered as a spy of Zekki Pasha, and the same agency is credited with his death.

In addition to forbidding any Armenian to retain any sort of administrative employ, these men try to extort money from the richer Armenians, one man having three days ago been summoned to hand over 300*l.* to their funds.

Even an Armenian youth of 20, the only Christian student at the "Idadieh" College here, has this week had an anonymous letter put into his hand when he was standing alone at the door of the establishment, threatening him with death from the same hands which had so recently killed Artin Effendi if he did not leave the school at once.

These cases will suffice to show the audacity and determination of the dangerous faction the authorities have now to deal with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 287.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 733.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 29, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting that there is no abatement in Kurdish lawlessness, and inclosing a threatening letter addressed by Kurdish Chiefs to Armenian villagers.

I am causing the matter to be mentioned at the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 287.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 11, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, from information reaching me from all sides, the depredations of the lawless Kurds show no signs of abatement.

Without troubling your Excellency with a detailed list of the numerous acts of violence and robbery laid to their charge within the last few weeks, I will merely transmit, as an interesting specimen of their arbitrary behaviour, a translation of a letter, the Turkish original of which I have seen, sent, on or about the 6th instant, to the villages of Khalil Tchaoush and Kaghkig, near Khinous, a small town some eighteen hours to the south-east of Erzeroum. Both these villages are entirely or mostly inhabited by Armenians, and the threatening letter is due to the disappearance of a Sheikh called Haidar Effendi, whom the Armenians are accused of having done away with.

I, this day, handed Hakki Pasha a copy of the document, and represented the necessity of immediate steps being taken to prevent the menace from being carried out, and his Excellency assured me that he had already sent an officer to the spot to inquire, and would take measures to protect the villagers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 287.

Letter from Kurdish Chiefs to Armenian Villagers.

(Translation.)

To the Armenians of the villages of Khalil Tchaoush and Kaghkig:

SOME days ago you caused to disappear our Sheikh, Haidar Effendi. If he is not found, we give you notice that you will all be put to the edge of the sword. Know it well.

We write you this in the name of all our tribes.

(Seals of Mohamed, Ali, Kadir, Meto.)

No. 288.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 734.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 29, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting upon the critical state of things at Kharput.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 288.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 14, 1895.

Sir,

OWING to a letter received by me from Dr. Barnum, American missionary at Kharput, dated the 28th September, I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency to-day that the situation in that place was such that the immediate departure of the new Vali for the Vilayet of Mamuret-ul-Aziz was highly advisable.

Dr. Barnum reports that there were unmistakable signs of hostile preparations on the part of the Turkish and Kurdish populations, and that, during the thirty-six years of his residence there, he has never seen anything approaching the present condition of terror.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 289.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 735.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 29, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the death of another Talori prisoner, and stating the imperative necessity of the dismissal of the Mudir of the Mush prison, Sadil Effendi, and of one of the officials, Meh Tchaoush.

I have since learnt that a new system has been introduced in the Mush prison, according to which the Governor is changed every month. The present Governor is a certain Abdul Kadir, who enjoys the very worst reputation, and I am causing strong representations to be made at the Sublime Porte for his dismissal from the service of the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 289.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 14, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 18th ultimo, the contents of which I have communicated to Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Hampson reports that the Talori prisoner, whose case was last referred to in the inclosure of my despatch of the 1st instant, died in the first week of this month, and that now only five out of the sixteen prisoners from that district survive.

Mr. Hampson also states that, up to the 8th instant, he had not received permission to visit the prison, and adds that he learns, from both Christian and Mussulman sources, the dismissal of the Mudir of the prison, Sadil Effendi, and of his abettor in ill-doing, Meh Tchaoush, is imperatively needed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 290.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 736.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 29, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, inclosing a despatch from Mr. Hampson respecting his visit to Bostanik and Varto. I am addressing a Memorandum to the Sublime Porte on the subject of the Aghas and officials complained of in his report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 290.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October* 14, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to send your Excellency copy of Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson's despatch on the subject of his recent visit to Boulanik and Varto, authorized by your telegram of the 26th ultimo.

Mr. Hampson's tour has, in general, confirmed his opinion as to the continued existence of many abuses, such as oppression and outrages by Kurdish Aghas, tax-collecting abuses by the police, and illegal exactions and neglect of duty by tithe-farmers, but he found that very considerable improvement had taken place during the last few months, and that emigrants were returning, roads were safer, and the feeling of security had increased.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 290.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Mush, October* 9, 1895.

AS I had the honour to inform you and Her Majesty's Embassy by telegraph, I returned last night from my visit to Boulanik and Varto.

Leaving here on the afternoon of the 2nd instant, I crossed the plain to Soronk; thence next day to Liss; and, on the 4th, by the Kurd village of Apri, over the shoulder of Mount Belijan to Harabashour, at the south end of Lake Kusan (Boulanik Lake), and on to Sheikh Yakoub, at the north-west corner of the lake. On the 5th I proceeded to Kop, the residence of the Kaïmakam, with whom I had a long interview; and on viâ Youndjalou, Teond, across the Mourad Su by the Sheikh's Bridge (a place of very evil repute—two Kurds and an Armenian had been killed there two days before), Bithi, and Sheikh Berat (both Kurdish) to Akrak. Having thus visited nearly all Boulanik, I went next day due west along the Mourad Su to Charbehour, one of the group of immigrant Circassian villages in the Caza of Varto; and thence, on the 7th, over the mountains to the Monastery of Sourp Garabet (Tchengelli), whence I returned yesterday by the western part of the plain to Mush.

The Mutessarif had returned from Varto before I arrived there, having apparently given up proceeding to Boulanik. I hope, however, to see him to-morrow, and discuss what I learnt during my journey.

Everywhere I heard the same stories, oppression and outrages by Kurd Aghas; bad officials, often in league with these Aghas; tax-collecting abuses by the police; and illegal exactions and neglect of their duties by the tithe-farmers.

Of the Kurd Aghas, the worst are:—

In Boulanik: Sheikh Kiamil and Dahar of Gebolan (*vide* my despatch of the 31st August), who have carried off many Christian girls and committed endless outrages; Mehmed Said Agha, of Harabashour; Déré Agha, a Major of Hamidié, of Piran, a village which, with the neighbouring Hatchla, was seized by the Kurds from the Christians a few years ago.

In Varto: Ibralim (Ibo) Agha, of Yukari Baghin; Hamé, of Houlan; and Nado of Hasobo, with Mehmed Ali (*vide* my despatch of the 21st September).

These are the worst offenders; and if they were given clearly to understand that their ways must be changed, and an example made of at least some of them, the rest would soon be reduced to order.

In the matter of tax collecting, the dismissal of the three Captains of Police at Mush has had a great effect; and now Husni Agha, Lieutenant of Police, having been removed from the Boulanik region, and the Mal Mudiri, Shukri Effendi, threatened with a similar fate (*vide* my despatch of the 18th September), an improvement may be hoped for in that district. The worst remaining officials appear to be the Mustantik Halul and the Circassian Sergeant of Police Indris. The Kaïmakam hitherto has been very slack in his duty, if not worse; but he promised me to try and get rid of these men, and begged me to speak to the Mutessarif on the subject.

In Varto, as reported in my No. 35, the Kaïmakam appears to allow Lieutenant of Police Fariz, and Zia, a Lieutenant of Cavalry, to commit many abuses; but, unfortunately, time would not permit me to visit the centre of this caza.

The farming of the tithes is everywhere a subject of complaint; the Multezzims leave the grain for weeks lying on the open threshing-floors, and exact far more than their due. The authorities are now, however, paying some attention to these matters. A serious evil is the granting by the Government of the tithes of Christian villages—*e.g.*, Harabashour—to Hamidié officers in lieu of pay.

As far as I could learn, the Kurds throughout these districts pay no taxes whatever except sheep-tax.

In Varto there are few Christian villages, the inhabitants being Kizilbashis, Kurds, and the Circassian and Mussulman immigrants from Russia before referred to. The Circassians are rich and independent, living largely by usury.

I have little doubt that, in the matter of tithes and taxes, there are faults on both sides. Armenians would not be true to their race if they did not try to save money even by defrauding Government or tithe-farmers. Still, no excuse can be made for the conduct of zaptiehs and Multezzims. That the former receive no pay—the salaries of many of them are fifteen months in arrear—is no doubt one reason that they do not pay for what they consume in Christian villages; but it is not done for cruelty and ill-usage. For the tithe-farmers I see no excuse. They buy the tithes as a speculation, and pay above the real value on the tacit understanding that the authorities will not interfere with their illegal exactions and abuses.

In general, my tour has confirmed my already formed opinion. Many abuses still exist; but things have very considerably improved during the last few months. Emigrants are returning; fifty houses have returned this summer to Liss; roads are safer than they have been for years, and the feeling of security has much increased. Authorities and officials have been frightened into an endeavour to correct the most flagrant abuses. I believe that the majority of the Mussulmans here, excluding the higher officials, would desire reforms equally with the Christians, if they were convinced that such reforms did not mean interference with their religion—the idea carefully fostered by the officials; and that even the lower Kurds would, in many cases, most gladly escape from the tyranny of the Aghas.

I was able to arrange with the Kaïmakam of Boulanik that every facility should be given for the purchase of grain and oxen in that caza for Sasun. Luckily, the crops this year are very abundant, and grain cheap.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 291.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 4.)

(No. 737.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 29, 1895.

ON receipt of Mr. Barnham's despatch No. 52 of the 4th October, which formed the inclosure in the despatch from this Embassy No. 687 of the 17th instant, Sir P. Currie instructed Mr. Mavrinitch to bring to the notice of the Grand Vizier the critical position of affairs in Aintab.

His Highness, in reply, stated that the information received at the Sublime Porte was not of a disquieting character as far as Aintab was concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 292.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 739. Confidential.)
Constantinople, October 29, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting on the state of things at Erzeroum and in the district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 292.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 17, 1895.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to telegraph to your Excellency yesterday that the state of things in Erzeroum and the outlying districts continued in a very critical state, and that the greatest anxiety prevailed on all sides; also that it would encourage the Armenians to maintain the attitude of forbearance which they have so far maintained, and to continue to resist pernicious counsels, if some hope of a favourable turn in affairs in the near future could be held out to them.

To-day I received your Excellency's answer, which will materially assist me in persuading them of the folly of any rash act on their part under present circumstances.

In the meantime the authorities are fully alive to the danger, and the greatest precautions are being taken to prevent a conflict between Christians and Mussulmans.

Strong military patrols are on foot day and night, and a strict watch is kept on the movements of the Turkish as well as the Armenian inhabitants of the town.

The same is the case in towns where there is a garrison, but in the outlying districts matters are in a deplorable state of disorder and confusion. Caravans and smaller parties of Armenians as well as villagers are being mercilessly attacked in all directions by Kurds. The much-frequented road between Erzeroum and Trebizond is infested with marauding bands, chiefly composed of Lazes, who have scattered themselves all over that region after taking part in the sacking of Tre'bizond, a significant fact being that, before each onslaught, they call upon any Moslems who may be in the party to separate themselves from their Christian fellow-travellers.

Though the authorities have the wish to prevent disturbances, and to put down the unruly Kurds and Lazes, it is more than doubtful if they have the power, and they must be aware of the fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 293.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 740. Confidential.)
Constantinople, October 29, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, giving further details with regard to Shakir Pasha's mission. I am calling the attention of the Grand Vizier to the desirability of the removal of Ismail Bey from his staff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 293.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Erzeroum, October 18, 1895.

Sir,

AS mentioned in my telegram of the 15th instant, Marshal Shakir Pasha returned here from Bayazid that day, after an absence of three weeks.

He appears to have devoted most of his time to trying to settle quarrels between the Kurdish tribes, and in attempting to instil into the minds of their Chiefs a better respect for the Government. How far he succeeded remains to be seen.

The peaceful Turkish and Kurdish inhabitants, believing that he had come to redress their wrongs, plied him with Petitions against Kurdish violence, but as a rule he referred them to the permanent authorities.

No Armenian either dared or was allowed to approach him to set forth his grievances.

He inspected the various administrative Departments at Hassan-Kaleh and Bayazid, and dismissed the "Mal-Mudiri" (Financial Secretary) of the former place, who was shown to have caused the burning down of the Government offices some time ago in order to destroy the documentary proofs of his defalcations on a large scale.

Being the originator of the "Hamidieh" corps, it was only natural that he should receive the hearty welcome he did from them all along the route. Reviews were held in his honour, and he had frequent consultations with the officers.

He has made several reports, recommending, among others things, certain administrative reorganizations and reforms in the Law Courts and Public Education Department, besides suggesting a plan for the permanent settlement of Kurdish tribes in specially defined districts, and for the institution of a Commission, composed of the Kurdish Chiefs, to decide questions that may arise amongst themselves.

During an unofficial visit I paid him this afternoon the subject of the present disturbed state of things was discussed, but nothing touching his mission, and he mentioned to Raouf Pasha, the new Vali, who was present, that he considered it necessary to remove the notorious Chief of the Haidaranei tribe, Hussein Pasha, of Patnoz, who, I hear, actually defied him, but that the question was how to manage it.

A member of his staff was Ismail Bey, Colonel on the staff of the IVth Army Corps, whose Susan fame is known to your Excellency. This clever and unscrupulous officer did much to thwart independent inquiry, especially in Armenian quarters, as it was he who acted as the Marshal's chief guide and counsellor.

Shakir Pasha considerably helped towards the inquiry into the murder of Mr. Lenz, the American cyclist—in fact, without his assistance the little that has so far been done would not have been otherwise accomplished.

It is probable that he has learnt enough of the principal and most flagrant evils that exist, but, apparently, having little or no executive power, it is difficult to see what immediate benefits are to accrue from his visit.

A Persian complainant at one of the places, not getting the satisfaction he expected out of his Excellency, replied in a most determined tone: "If you, one of the Sultan's most powerful Pashas, are unable to redress our wrongs, there is only His Majesty left to do so, and he will never come here. After your departure our condition will be worse than it ever was, and will end disastrously. I warn you!" This characteristic reply pretty accurately describes the situation as regards Shakir Pasha's tour in the Bayazid district.

He returned through the Khinous Caza, and his arrival in the vicinity of the town of that name at a critical moment no doubt helped to prevent the attack on that town and neighbouring villages, which was contemplated by certain Kurdish tribes, as reported in my despatch of the 11th instant.

The future movements of the Special Mission are not definitely known, but it is expected to proceed shortly to Sivas vid Erzingham.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 294.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 741. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 29, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, announcing that precautionary measures have been maintained to prevent excitement at the news of the acceptance of the reforms.

I have approved Mr. Cumberbatch's action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 294.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, October 18, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegram, informing me of the acceptance by His Majesty the Sultan of the reforms proposed by the three Powers for the Armenian provinces.

Having heard at the same time that the news had been transmitted from Constantinople by both official and private sources, I considered it necessary under the circumstances to advise the Armenians, through their influential ecclesiastical chief, to carefully abstain from any kind of demonstration which might give rise to a misinterpretation of their intentions in Turkish circles, and I received assurances that my counsels would be followed.

At the same time, I informed the Vali of what I had done, and I expressed a conviction that he would continue to maintain the precautionary measures taken by the authorities to suppress the slightest incident on either side which might lead to a conflict.

I afterwards saw Raouf Pasha, who thanked me for my action, and assured me that he would vouch for the tranquillity of the Turks so long as the Armenians remained quiet.

A more active patrolling of the streets by soldiers has been visible to-day, and it is hoped that if both sides persevere in the repression of an expression of feeling, matters will calm down to their normal state.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 295.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 742.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 29, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, inclosing a despatch from the Consular Agent at Samsun, reporting apprehensions of disturbances at Samsun, and an attack on the Armenians at Charshamba.

I am calling the attention of the Porte to the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 295.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, October 18, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from our Consular Agent at Samsoun, reporting apprehensions of disturbances at Samsoun and an attack on the Armenians at Charshamba.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 295.

Mr. Cortanze to Consul Longworth.

M. le Consul, *Samsoun, le 16 Octobre, 1895.*

AUSSITÔT arrivé j'ai été aux renseignements, il en résulte ce qui suit:—

Les Arméniens d'ici ne sont pas en nombre suffisant pour oser tenter l'aventure d'une révolte quelconque. De plus, ils sont presque tous de petits marchands nés dans le pays, et comme tous ceux des villes, d'une lâcheté à nulle autre pareille.

Il n'y a que 200 hommes environ au plus susceptibles de marcher si l'ordre leur en était donné. Une seule chose est à craindre c'est qu'il en vienne de l'intérieur. Les routes sont bien gardées mais ces gens-là ne voyagent pas par les grands chemins. Les bruits les plus divers circulent et les plus absurdes sont ceux qui ont le plus de crédit. Il en résulte donc une surexcitation extrême dans tous les clans et la panique est à son comble. Toutes les affaires, principalement du côté des Arméniens sont arrêtées. Plusieurs magasins sont fermés et tous ceux qui peuvent partent. Beaucoup ne restent qu'à cause que les autorités ne leur donnent point de Teskéré. Il résulte de ce qui précède que pour ce qui concerne les Arméniens je ne crois pas qu'ils oseront quoique cela soit. Il n'y a que de ce côté qu'une crainte, c'est qu'un membre du Comité ne fasse une démonstration quelconque pour amener l'effusion du sang comme ils le disent.

Du côté des Ottomans dans ce cas cela serait le signal des massacres qui seraient, j'en suis certain, plus importants que ceux de Stamboul et de Trébizonde, et cela à cause des 800 Lazes environ qui forment la population marine, sur lesquels les autorités n'ont absolument aucun pouvoir. Ils sont très bien armés et ils n'attendent qu'un signal pour se jeter sur les Arméniens et principalement piller leurs maisons. Outre cela la population Musulmane, qui est la dominante, est très fanatique et déteste cordialement tous les Chrétions et plus encore peut-être même les autorités.

En un mot, toute cette population, qui est bien armée, n'attend qu'un signal pour le pillage et pour s'offrir des têtes de l'ennemi détesté.

Quant aux autorités, le Mutessarif en tête, elles paraissent animées du ferme désir de faintenir l'ordre, [*sic*] quelques mesures qui me paraissent devoir être de bien peu d'efficacité en cas de conflit, ce n'est pas sur cela que je base ma croyance dans le maintien de l'ordre dans notre ville, mais bien plus sur la faiblesse des uns et sur la force des autres qui démontrent aux deux parties mieux que tous les raisonnements qu'il n'y a rien à espérer et rien à craindre.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) H. DE CORTANZE.

P.S. *Le 17 Octobre.*—Je viens à l'instant d'apprendre qu'il y a eu hier à 3 heures du soir à Charshamba des troubles assez importants. Les Arméniens auraient fermés leurs magasins et se seraient portés en masse chez le Caïmacam. Il y a eu, dit-on, plusieurs morts; je ne puis encore en savoir le nombre. Aussitôt que j'aurai des renseignements je vous en ferai part.

H. DE C.

No. 296.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 744.) *Therapia, October 29, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond reporting on the situation, and stating that his Turkish scribe, an Armenian, had been imprisoned.

Strong representations were at once made at the Sublime Porte to the effect that the servants of Her Majesty's Consulate were not to be interfered with, and telegraphic instructions have been sent accordingly to the Vali of Trebizond.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 296.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, October 17, 1895.

Sir,

THE situation here is not yet one to inspire confidence. The two Armenian lads, Gasparoglou and Stephanoglou, who, it is said, wounded the Pashas on the 2nd instant and a Turk on the night of the 4th instant, have not been discovered either among the dead or living. So long as they are at large, it is feared that by their firing at some one disturbances may break out again.

The Russian gun-boat is still in port without allowing any one to land, while the Russian Consulate, I hear, has closed its gates to outsiders.

As I telegraphed to your Excellency this morning, the court-martial is occupied entirely in arresting and examining Armenians. It is even said that some of them will be shot. No Turks have as yet been arrested, and this Consulate is viewed with suspicion by the military. I am quite helpless under the circumstances, and it is in vain that the poor people are appealing to me for protection. There are three Armenian gentlemen connected with this Consulate: my Dragoman, Mr. Gamidas Tcheliaian, my supernumerary clerk, Mr. Vartan Petrodjian, and my Turkish scribe, Mr. Joseph Mikaëlian. The last-named is in gaol, but the other two are at present under my roof. Convinced as I am of their not having taken part in any conspiracy, I sincerely trust that your Excellency, on receipt of my this day's telegram, will have caused an order to be issued that they should not be even questioned without my being present, at least during their examination.

As public security is being maintained in town, I am thinking of sending away the guard of soldiers placed at my disposal. Such a move on my part I believe would inspire confidence among the Christians, conciliate the Turks, and please the authorities. Before doing so, however, I shall first consult the Vali as to whether he can guarantee the non-recurrence of troubles in the immediate future.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 297.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 747.) *Therapia, October 30, 1895.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 550 of the 29th instant, I have the honour to report that on the receipt of Mr. Hampson's telegram of the 28th instant respecting the threats of the chief Mussulmans of Mush, I called on the United States' Minister, and asked him what action he proposed to take in regard to the American missionaries at Sasun. Mr. Terrell, after consultation with Mr. Dwight, the head of the Bible House at Stamboul, decided that in view of the risk mentioned by Mr. Hampson, it would be better to ask the missionaries to withdraw temporarily, and it was agreed that I should send a telegram to Mr. Hampson in this sense. I subsequently called on the Grand Vizier, whom I found at the Palace in company with the Minister for Foreign

Affairs, and protested most strongly at the threats used by the Mussulmans at Mush, informing them at the same time that I should hold the Ottoman Government responsible for the lives and property of every missionary at Sasun and for any disturbances which might occur there. I also pointed out what a deplorable effect the enforced withdrawal of the missionaries from their charitable and humane work would produce in England.

The Grand Vizier promised to send instant orders to the local authorities at Mush for the protection of the missionaries, and he stated that if he learnt that there were not enough soldiers on the spot to insure their safety more troops would be dispatched there. In the latter event, he suggested that the missionaries should withdraw temporarily to Mush until the reinforcements arrived, when they could return to Sasun and resume their relief work.

I told his Highness, in reply, that if it was found necessary to withdraw the missionaries temporarily, it must be distinctly understood that they should be allowed to return to Sasun directly the reinforcements arrived.

The United States' Minister said, at our interview in the morning, that he would make similar representations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 298.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 748.) *Therapia, October 30, 1895.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 30th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a letter addressed by the Gregorian-Armenian Patriarch to the Embassies of the Powers at Constantinople, asking for their intervention to prevent the continuance of massacres in Asia Minor.

I told his Beatitude yesterday that Her Majesty's Embassy were making, and would continue to make, strong representations to the Porte on the subject of the massacres in the provinces, but that I could not tell him whether any collective action would be taken until I had seen the Representatives of the other Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 298.

The Armenian Patriarch to Mr. Herbert.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Constantinople, le 16 (28) Octobre, 1895.*

PAR notre précédent écrit que nous avons eu l'honneur d'adresser à votre Excellence le 27 du mois dernier, nous avions pris la liberté de solliciter votre bienveillante attention sur le besoin de mesures immédiates et radicales, propres à ramener une complète sécurité dans la capitale, et à empêcher le renouvellement dans les provinces des massacres dont tant de personnes non armées et innocentes tombèrent victimes à Constantinople.

Nous regrettons de nous voir dans la nécessité de revenir aujourd'hui sur la même question et d'établir que la crainte éprouvée par nous à l'endroit des provinces se change désormais en une navrante réalité, et que la vie des Arméniens Chrétiens s'y trouve vouée à des carnages et leur propriété à la déprédation.

Selon nos premières informations reçues des provinces de Trébizonde et dans les bourgades environnantes une grande quantité d'Arméniens Chrétiens ont été égorgés sans merci, et leurs biens, pour une valeur totale considérable, livrés au pillage; de même, dans le village d'Akhissar d'Ismidt, nombre d'Arméniens ont été tués par la populace Turque, leurs marchandises et leurs effets ont été enlevés, et il paraît que ce soit au su du Moudir lui-même qui, avant le massacre, avait fait fouiller les Arméniens s'assurant qu'ils étaient sans armes et incapables de se défendre; les autres villages d'Ismidt, ainsi que l'Évêque du diocèse venu à Constantinople nous l'a déclaré en personne, et le confirme par écrit de son diocèse, sont exposés aux mêmes

dangers, et déjà on mentionne le village Khondek, habité par les Arméniens, comme étant sous menace.

Un télégramme daté du 14 (26) Octobre, et signé par les chefs spirituels des communautés Arménienne, Arméno-Catholique, et Protestante de Maraclé, informe que les Musulmans de cette ville, attaquant les Chrétiens en ont blessé un grand nombre, et quoique les chefs spirituels aient sollicité par des démarches auprès du Gouverneur Commandant Militaire des mesures de nature à prévenir l'agitation, leur demande n'a pas été prise en considération et la populace, encouragée par cette insouciance, a commencé le massacre qui continue. On informe de l'Evêché de Baybourd, que des Lazes venus de Surménié et la population Turque ont attaqués les villages environnants et commis des meurtres, des viols, et des pillages. On mande du diocèse de Kharput que des armes sont distribuées aux habitants Turcs de la ville et des villages, et on demande aide pour prévenir un massacre imminent.

Des renseignements venus d'Eghin il résulte que toute la ville ainsi que les campagnes sont en butte au même danger; enfin, on annonce successivement d'Amassia, de Kenakh, de Hassan Ova, et de diverses autres contrées l'armement des Musulmans, les préparatifs de massacre, et des pillages déjà commencés.

D'un autre côté Constantinople même et, comme conséquence du récent massacre, les familles éloignées de leurs demeures, les gens de province ayant dû abandonner leurs gites se trouvent toujours en proie à la même terreur; des manœuvres, dépouillés, restent sans manger et demandent assistance; des parents éplorés réclament leurs enfants disparus; de ceux qui avaient été arbitrairement arrêtés, il en existent qui n'ont pas été encore relâchés; les arrestations continuent; et le chiffre des tués, qui paraît considérable, demeure indéterminé.

Nous pensons, Excellence, que la situation aigüe actuelle et l'extension, tous les jours plus menaçante, des massacres, à raison même de leur caractère exceptionnel et de l'imminence d'un formidable péril, exigent, pour avoir une fin, des dispositions exceptionnelles, urgentes et énergiques, grâce auxquelles les massacres entrepris contre les Chrétiens s'arrêtent sans retard; une enquête soit ouverte, qui soit susceptible d'aboutir à la découverte des malfaiteurs et à leur châtiment selon la justice, et pour exemple aux autres, afin qu'ils ne soient point encouragés à de nouveaux crimes; les personnes éprouvées touchent quelque réparation, qui les aide à procurer de quoi subsister; les détenus soient mis en liberté; les rigueurs, occasionnées par la perception des impôts, cessent; en un mot, la tranquillité soit rétablie.

Nous nous permettons, Excellence, de recommander de nouveau à votre haute attention cet état de choses, et ces quelques considérations, et d'implorer de vous la grâce de continuer à prêter en vue du résultat désiré votre concours et vos soins précieux, dont nous avons déjà enregistré avec gratitude les effets bienfaisants dans les circonstances difficiles que nous traversons.

En confiant, &c.
(Signé) MATTEAS,
Patriarche des Arméniens de Turquie.

No. 299.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 750.) *Therapia, October 31, 1895.*

My Lord,

MGR. AZARIAN, the Catholic Armenian Patriarch, called at this Embassy yesterday afternoon, and was received in my absence by Mr. Eliot.

He said he was visiting all the Embassies with the view of ascertaining whether it was true, as he had heard, that the Catholic Armenian Bishops at Mush and Erzeroum had been killed during the recent disturbances. He was informed that Her Majesty's Embassy had received no information to this effect.

He then spoke in strong terms of the terrible situation in the provinces, and expressed the hope that the Powers would use their influence to prevent the continuance of massacres. His language, however, was vague, and he did not definitely ask for the intervention of Her Majesty's Embassy.

In alluding to the recent events in Zeitoun and Marasch, he stated that, according to information received from his Bishops there, the Armenians had been attacked by the Turks, and had only fired on the latter in self-defence.

The greater part of his visit, however, was occupied by an eulogy of Sakis Ohannes Effendi, whom he desired to see named as Catholic member of the Commission of Control about to be established. I have not as yet any detailed information about this gentleman, but his candidature is supported by the French Ambassador.

Mgr. Azarian was till lately regarded as the tool of the Turkish Government, and certain publications which he made after the Sasun massacres, exculpating the Turkish authorities, and throwing the blame on the Armenians, made him an object of hatred to most of the latter. It is said, however, that the very direct menaces of assassination which he has received from the Hindehag Committee have inspired him with more patriotic views.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 300.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 752.) *Constantinople, October 31, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo respecting the revolutionary movement in that vilayet. I propose to speak to the Grand Vizier respecting the character of the present Vali, as reported in Mr. Barnham's despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 300.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.) *Aleppo, October 14, 1895.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a few days ago I received a visit from an Armenian gentleman, a respected resident of Aleppo, who showed me a letter which he had received from an Armenian Notable at Aintab, in which he was requested to call upon me as British Consul, and ask for my authority that the revolutionary party in Aintab should make a demonstration on the grounds and under the conditions given below.

The writer stated that he was requested by the members of the party to ask me the following question:—

"As they had no hope that in the reforms which would be granted by the Imperial Government special guarantees would be given for the protection of Armenians in outlying districts, such as Aintab, Marash, and Zeitoun, they asked me if I was of opinion that they would further the cause of the Armenians in that region by causing a demonstration to be made immediately in that part of the vilayet, and, if so, would I authorize it?"

My visitor was requested, in the event of receiving an answer in the negative, to communicate it to his correspondent by the following code telegram: "Hadji Yemé" ("Do not take the medicine").

After taking notes of this letter, I requested my visitor to burn it in my presence, which he at once did, and I told him to send by a trusty messenger such an answer as would convey to these misguided persons in the most emphatic manner that the English Government does not approve of any such act, and to use every endeavour to dissuade them from taking a course which would inevitably bring upon them great suffering, and must hamper the Powers in endeavouring to bring about a solution of the question.

This happened three days ago. I have heard nothing since, and trust that my action will have had the desired effect, and that it meets with your Excellency's approval.

A proposal of a similar nature was recently made to the British Vice-Consul at Alexandretta as regards a demonstration at Pyas.

The situation is extremely dangerous at Aintab, Marash, Zeitoun, and at Pyas, in the Vilayet of Adana.

I have already reported how many Armenians had recently joined the revolutionary party in Aintab owing to the continued presence in that city of Aghasé, the Hunchag leader.

While the attention of the Government is directed to the movement in Suedia, there

is no question that the paramount danger exists in the north of the vilayet, where the Armenian population is considerable, that in the cities of Aintab and Marash being, in each case, 15,000 approximatively.

I am inclined to think that the danger of an accidental collision between Moslems and Christians is greater at Marash than at Aintab, where the Mussulman population is more Turkish than Arab, and therefore more sensitive about the Armenian question. Where, as in the city of Aleppo, the Arab element predominates, and the Armenian population is insignificant, that question is not likely to provoke a spontaneous conflict.

At Aintab, the Government is drawing the enmity of both sects upon itself. An order has been promulgated for the immediate collection of the road tax—now five years in arrear—the sum demanded from Aintab alone amounting to 9,000 Turkish liras. This is a special tax, which has been assessed and paid with some irregularity for the past twenty-eight years.

Under the régime of Djemil Pasha a similar collection of arrears was ordered, and 42,000 medjidiés were sent from Aintab to Aleppo.

The only work to show for all this money is some 5 or 6 miles of road built from the city in the direction of Killis, and over ground requiring very little labour. In view of this, the people are at last refusing to pay the tax any longer, without assurance that it will be expended on the object for which it is assessed. The local authorities, under urgent demands from Aleppo, are resorting to the severest measures, and many have been imprisoned.

The authorities are in the meantime preoccupied with the situation at Suedia, where they anticipate an explosion when they commence to collect the taxes.

The Commandant recently informed me that some bombs had been discovered in the district and forwarded to Constantinople. Troops have been gradually drafted into the district from Aleppo and from Damascus, and six pieces of cannon have recently left for Suedia. A Turkish corvette is off the coast. If the Ansariyeh take part against the authorities there may be serious fighting, otherwise the movement would be immediately suppressed.

Whatever abuses exist in this vilayet, and whatever troubles are impending, have been greatly provoked by the personal action of the present Vali of Aleppo, whose presence here at this time is, in the public opinion, a source of great danger, owing to his inveterate hatred of Christians, and the universal prayer of the people throughout the province is that he may be removed.

His Highness, the present Grand Vizier, who was formerly Vali here and knows the vilayet well, is aware of the character of the present Vali and of the mischief he has done here, and it is therefore greatly hoped that he will soon be dismissed.

On the other hand, if the public peace has not been disturbed in the neighbourhood of Aleppo, it is certainly due to his Excellency Edhem Pasha, the Commander of the Troops, whose conduct in the present critical state of affairs is deserving of the greatest praise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

No. 301.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 754.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, October 31, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting upon the recent state of affairs in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 301.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir,

Angora, October 26, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that from the date of the recent demonstrations at Constantinople up to that of the acceptation by the Sultan of the scheme of reforms great anxiety prevailed among the Christians of all sects in this town. As soon as the news of the slaughter of Armenians at Stamboul and Kassim Pasha was received here, the Mussulmans began secretly to purchase arms and ammunition, and threatened openly in the market-place to exterminate, when sufficiently armed, every Christian in Angora.

The son of Attar Bashi Ali Effendi, a local Turk of some note, is said to have sold within two weeks £ T. 50 worth of ammunition alone. Government officials, merchants, and labourers alike purchased from him; he refused, however, to sell to any but Mussulmans.

A Committee, composed of six fanatical Turks, met in private to arrange for a sudden and simultaneous attack upon the Christians in the various quarters of the town and in the suburbs; and its members did their best individually to excite the fanaticism of the lower-class Turks against their Christian neighbours.

The Vali has made strenuous and hitherto successful efforts to prevent disturbances of any kind. He forbade the sale of arms, and upon hearing of the proceedings of the six men referred to sent them off, one by one, under police escort, to various parts of the vilayet. He formed a special guard to patrol the town both day and night, under strict orders to at once arrest any disorderly Christian or Turk, and sent injunctions to the various café proprietors in the town to forbid any discussion upon, or even allusion to, political questions among the customers on their premises.

Memdouh Pasha informed me, however, that he would be powerless to restore order should a collision once take place between Turks and Armenians; that the regular troops stationed at Angora amounted, all told, to less than 100, and that the local police force was insufficient even in ordinary times. He requested me to do my best to prevent any rash act on the part of the Armenians; but the efforts I made to that end were quite unnecessary.

At Yuzgat and at Cesarea the tension has been very great. The Armenians in the latter town barricaded, until a few days ago, their shops and dwellings, and comparatively few ventured into the streets. At Yuzgat, I am informed, there are some twenty-eight Mussulmans who returned last year from Mecca, and certain of whom have received decorations from the Sultan. These pilgrims are the chief cause for anxiety to the local Christians owing to their fanaticism, and to the influence they possess over their Mahommedan fellow-townsmen.

There is, however, a battalion of reserves stationed there, which would suffice, under wise leadership, to nip in the bud any preliminary hostilities between Christians and Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 302.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 755.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, October 31, 1895.

WITH reference to Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 723 of the 26th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, reporting the settlement of the dispute between Druses and Metawili in the district of Merj-Ayoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 302.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Beyrout, October 19, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a further despatch received from the British Vice-Consul at Sidon, reporting a settlement of the disputes between Druses and Metawilis in connection with the Merj-Ayoun disturbances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 302.

Dr. Abela to Consul-General Drummond Hay.

Sidon, October 17, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the disturbances which were prevalent lately between the Druses and the Metawili in the district of Merj-Ayoun, and which I reported in my previous despatch, have apparently ended.

After some preliminary negotiations, a meeting for a formal reconciliation took place Tuesday, the 15th October, at Suk-el-Khan, between Hasbaya and Merj-Ayoun. Both parties were represented by prominent men, and a few of the chief Christians were also present by invitation of the Metawili. A formal compact was concluded by both parties acknowledging that the feud was ended, and agreeing to keep the peace in the future. The Druses are to be responsible for the district east of the Hasbany River and the Metawili for that to the west.

The Kaimakams of Hasbaya and Jedeideh and the Commander of the Turkish troops were present. The Government received a copy of the Agreement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SHIBLY ABELA, M.D.

No. 303.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 597.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 4, 1895, 3·30 P.M.*

MY telegram of yesterday No. 594.

I am informed by the French and Russian Ambassadors that as they were only consulted unofficially in regard to Shefik Bey's appointment by Munir Bey, who was sent to them by the Sultan, they do not consider that they have any right to refuse to accept it. Moreover, they say that if we did so they might appoint a worse man in his place. They therefore propose to confine themselves to protesting against their objections having been ignored, and against the manner in which the appointment was made.

I have pointed out to their Excellencies that the Grand Vizier had given me the right to protest by officially consulting me beforehand as to whether Shefik's appointment would be agreeable to my Government; that I had, at their own request, replied that I saw the most serious objections to it, and that, in spite of my answer, the appointment had appeared in the papers the very next day. I could not under these circumstances, without special instructions from your Lordship, accept the appointment.

I have instructed Mr. Block to protest to the Grand Vizier at the manner in which the appointment has been made, and to state that I have asked your Lordship for further instructions.

Apart from the fact of his having acted as President of the Mush Commission, Shefik Pasha is a fairly good man, and it would be very regrettable if there should be any apparent difference of opinion between the three Powers. On the other hand, I venture to submit that we cannot, after what has passed, accept the appointment without loss of dignity.

No. 304.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 598. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 4, 1895, 4·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 597 of the 4th November, I think M. Cambon, judging from his language to me yesterday, was ready to refuse Shefik's appointment, but Russian Ambassador could not be moved.

It is probable that Munir Bey concealed the objections of the two Ambassadors from the Sultan, as the Grand Vizier informed Mr. Block on Saturday that I alone had opposed the appointment.

No. 305.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 599.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 4, 1895, 4·15 P.M.*

M. DE NELIDOFF states that he has received no such instructions as those referred to in your Lordship's telegram of the 3rd November, but they may be on their way by post. As for concerting measures for the safety of respective nationals at Constantinople, for the moment he does not see any necessity for it.

No. 306.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 600. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 4, 1895, 4·20 P.M.*

IN the opinion of M. Cambon, Sultan's conviction that the Powers will not intervene, which has recently been strengthened by His Majesty's interpretation of the language used by your Lordship in regard to Mr. Gladstone's letter, is one of the causes of the continuance of the disturbances in the provinces.

No. 307.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 601.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 4, 1895, 10 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 1st November No. 579, Mr. Block was informed again to-day by the Grand Vizier that the reforms might possibly be published to-morrow, and, if not, then very shortly.

No. 308.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 602. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 4, 1895, 10·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship of the 4th November No. 598, Grand Vizier hopes to be able to induce Shefik to resign, and later on to appoint a better man in his stead, but I doubt his ability to do so.

In answer to my message, his Highness informed Mr. Block to-day that the Iradé appointing the members of the Commission of Control was sprung upon him, and that at that moment he did not think it opportune to oppose the Sultan.

No. 309.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 603.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 4, 1895, 10 P.M.*

I HAVE sent the following telegram to Her Majesty's Consuls at Trebizond, Erzeroum, Mush, Van, Aleppo, and Angora in view of the present state of affairs in the provinces:—

"The Porte has, at my request, instructed Vali to give you all necessary protection in view of disturbances reported in your district.

"Missionaries should be quietly informed not to expose themselves to risk."

No. 310.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 605.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 4, 1895, 10.30 P.M.*

TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND men have been sent to Marash and Zeitoun. At the latter place 420 are prisoners in the hands of the Armenians, and the garrison have capitulated.

In the 4th and 5th Army Corps districts twenty more battalions have been called out. Total number now 60,000 men.

No. 311.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 606. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 4, 1895, 10·40 P.M.*

THE air is full of rumours of a Mussulman revolution, but as far as I can ascertain as yet there are no men of importance ready to head the movement, which seems to be without any proper organization.

Grand Vizier admitted to-day, both to Baron Calice and Mr. Block, that serious discontent prevailed among the Mussulmans, but the Sultan, who is well aware of the danger, is adopting every precaution.

The Representatives of the Powers at their meeting to-day agreed that the moment was not opportune for taking collective action for the safety of foreign residents.

No. 312.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 607.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 4, 1895, 10·15 P.M.*

MR. HAMPSON telegraphed yesterday that snow had commenced to fall at Mush, which will probably have more effect in restoring order than any measure which could be devised.

There was a heavy fall last night, which continues to-day.

No. 313.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 608.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 4, 1895, 10·20 P.M.*

I RECEIVED the following telegram from Mush to-day:—

"Missionaries urge necessity for measures to protect Sasun against the Kurds.

"Dr. Reynolds requests to be relieved from work, and Mr. Cole requests permission to go to Bitlis, as they consider their presence in Sasun no longer necessary for the distribution of relief. Mr. Cole would return shortly and direct further work from here.

"They both ask for safe-conduct to their homes, and for the doctor to take the ladies from Bitlis to Van if it seems best."

No. 314.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 609.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 4, 1895, 10·30 P.M.*

THE French Ambassador received last night further telegram in regard to disturbances at Diarbekir referred to in my telegram No. 593, in which it was stated that French Consul's life was in great danger.

M. Cambon immediately sent to inform the Grand Vizier (at 2 A.M.) that he would ask his Government to occupy some Syrian port if the guilty parties were not punished, and would require the head of the Vali if anything happened to the Consul.

This report describes the Sheikh of Zeilan as the principal instigator of the massacre, in comparison with which all other disturbances in the provinces sink into insignificance, especially as it would appear that not only Armenians, but Christians of every Church, were indiscriminately slaughtered.

As a telegram was received from the Consul this afternoon to say that things are quiet, it would seem that the threats of the French Ambassador have produced their desired effect.

No. 315.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 5.*)

(No. 751.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 31, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a letter which Sir Philip Currie addressed to the Gregorian Armenian Patriarch, communicating to him the scheme of reforms and other documents.

I am also urging the Sublime Porte, at the request of his Beatitude, to communicate to him officially the text of the reforms, and permit him to publish and circulate it in an Armenian translation.

I have also, at the desire of the French Ambassador, addressed to the Armenian Catholic Patriarch a letter identical with that sent to Mgr. Tsiurlian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 315.

Sir P. Currie to the Patriarch of the Armenians of Turkey and the Patriarch of the Armenian Catholics.

Monseigneur, *Therapia, October 28, 1895.*

WITH the consent of the Russian and French Ambassadors, I have the honour to transmit to your Beatitude herewith copies of a *note verbale* addressed to me by the Sublime Porte, and containing the schedule of the reforms to be introduced in the six

vilayets of Van, Sivas, Erzeroum, Bitlis, Kharput, and Diarbekir, as well as the Vizierial letter ordering their execution.

I also inclose a copy of the note addressed by the three Ambassadors to the Sublime Porte, acknowledging the receipt of this communication, and formulating certain reserves with respect to the extension of the reforms to Cazas outside the six vilayets, and the right of the three Embassies to object to the nomination of unsuitable officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 316.

Saïd Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(Communicated by Rustem Pasha, November 5.)

Constantinople, le 5 Novembre, 1895.

(Télégraphique.)

LES autorités de Marache ayant été avisées qu'à la suite de quelques coups de feu tirés par des Arméniens sur des Musulmans dont un a été tué et un autre grièvement blessé, la population Musulmane se préparait à des représailles, ont pris des mesures, grâce auxquelles le calme a été rétabli. Dans cette affaire un Lieutenant de Gendarmerie et cinq Musulmans ont été grièvement blessés et quatorze Arméniens tués et blessés.

Le nommé Mighirditch et son frère Nazaret, impliqués dans l'incident de Bitlis, ayant dernièrement à Khuntz menacé de leurs revolvers et injurié deux Musulmans ont été arrêtés et désarmés.

No. 317.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 610.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 5, 1895.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo reports that the Armenians took the citadel of Zeïtoun about four days ago, putting the garrison to flight, and capturing two guns. Ten battalions, mostly Reserves, and all considerably under their proper establishment, had been dispatched against them.

The Officer Commanding at Zeitoun stated that the Armenians were 8,000 strong.

Mr. Barnham says that the Military Commander is doing all he can to prevent an outbreak at Aleppo, and that, in consequence of the news received on Friday of the disturbances at Diarbekir, two battalions have been left at Aleppo instead of one.

No. 318.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 611. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 5, 1895, 12·20 P.M.*

THE feeling against the Sultan in Constantinople is said to be growing more and more intense in all circles.

I am informed that His Majesty, who, in the opinion of even the Palace, is now at the mercy of any accident, may throw the blame for the present situation on the Grand Vizier and dismiss him.

No. 319.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 612.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 5, 1895, 6·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 604 of 4th November, the Representatives of the six Powers made to-day to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the communication agreed upon at yesterday's meeting.

Saïd Pasha promised to give us a formal answer in a day or two.

After repeating arguments in regard to attacks by Armenians, his Excellency said that his Government were doing their best to cope with the disturbances, as the calling out of the Redifs in various parts of the Empire proved. But he admitted that the situation was very serious.

No. 320.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 613.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 5, 1895, 6·30 P.M.*

IDENTIC representations were made at the Porte to-day by the French, Russian, and Italian Ambassadors and myself in the sense of Mr. Cumberbatch's suggestion, as reported in my telegram to your Lordship No. 596 of the 3rd instant.

I have telegraphed the above information to Mr. Cumberbatch.

No. 321.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 614.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 5, 1895, 6·46 P.M.*

MY representations to the Porte in regard to the safety of missionaries at Bitlis and in the Mush district have been supported by M. de Nélidoff, who had received instructions from his Government to do so.

No. 322.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 615.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 5, 1895, 11·45 P.M.*

I INSTRUCTED Mr. Block to-day to call at the Palace and warn the Sultan, through the First Secretary, of the danger of the present situation, and to point out how necessary it was that the existing disorders should be put an end to. His Majesty has sent me this evening following message in reply:—

"The strictest instructions have been sent to the provinces enjoining the authorities to take every possible step to prevent Moslems attacking Christians and *vice versâ*, and to punish indiscriminately the authors of disturbances.

"The reforms will be published in to-morrow's newspapers, and will be followed by an Iradé stating that all possible measures will be taken to secure prosperity and welfare of all classes.

"It has unfortunately been found necessary to call out large numbers of troops at great expense in order to preserve order, but the authorities have been instructed at the same time to use every effort to induce the people to discontinue hostilities, and the

troops will only receive orders to use their arms if disturbances continue in spite of this warning."

(Secret.)
I am desired by Sultan to inform your Lordship that, in spite of the utterances of the British press, His Majesty is well aware of your friendly disposition towards him; that a few weeks ago Zeki Pasha, a man in whom His Majesty had full confidence, was sent by him to Sir P. Currie to explain his good intentions and his friendship towards England; that His Majesty is certain your Lordship will approve his language, and continue to extend to himself and to Turkey your friendly offices and assistance; and that your Lordship should be convinced, whoever his Ministers may be, His Majesty's policy remains unchanged.

No. 323.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 209. Secret.) *Foreign Office, November 5, 1895.*
(Telegraphic.) P.
THE following is secret.
You should try to ascertain what view the French and Russian Ambassadors take in regard to the course to be followed if a revolution breaks out at Constantinople. The contingency of serious disturbances there must evidently be looked upon as a possible one.

No. 324.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 610. Secret.) *Constantinople, November 6, 1895, 3·50 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.
WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 598 of 4th November, I hear that the French Ambassador has hinted to Munir Bey that your Lordship may possibly refuse to accept Shefik Bey as President of the Commission of Control, and has himself made a strong protest against the manner in which the appointment was made.

No. 325.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 617. Secret.) *Constantinople, November 6, 1895, 6·45 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.
YOUR Lordship's telegram of the 5th instant No. 209.
The Russian and French Ambassadors are of opinion that it would be advisable that the Representatives of the Powers here should be authorized by their respective Governments to act together, and be given *carte blanche* as to the measures to be taken in the event of disturbances breaking out. M. de Nélidoff is further of the opinion that, should joint action become necessary, all the foreign Representatives here should take part in it.
Neither he nor M. Cambon, however, consider the danger of revolution to be imminent, though they regard it as possible, and they think that it would be premature, and indeed impossible, to concert measures of protection at this moment.

No. 326.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 618.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 6, 1895, 7 P.M.*
WITH reference to my telegram of 4th November No. 609, the French Ambassador is informed by his Consul at Diarbekir that the Mussulmans threaten to recommence the massacre to-morrow, and that up to the present 5,000 persons have been killed there.

No. 327.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 619.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 6, 1895, 7·15 P.M.*
MR. HAMPSON telegraphs that, in consequence of another conversation he had had with the principal Moslem inhabitants of Mush, the situation has improved during the last few days, and he hopes that for the moment there is no immediate danger.
He had not as yet received any details respecting the disturbances at Bitlis.

No. 328.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 210.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 6, 1895, 1·55 P.M.*
I APPROVE your proceedings in connection with the appointment of Shefik Bey to the Presidency of the Armenian Commission of Control, as reported in your telegram No. 557 of the 4th instant.
Her Majesty's Government have heard with surprise and regret of this appointment being made, in spite of the objections raised by the Representatives of Great Britain, France, and Russia: they are unable to accept it as satisfactory, or as likely to create a feeling of confidence in that body, and they hope that it may be changed.
You will make a communication in the above sense to the Grand Vizier.

No. 329.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Howard.**

(No. 148.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 6, 1895, midnight.*
I HAVE just repeated to you a telegram which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens, recording a communication made to me by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires respecting the present situation at Constantinople.
You will communicate the substance of this telegram down to the word "sacrificed" to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and ask whether his Excellency has received similar information, and whether he has sent any instructions in consequence to the French Ambassador at Constantinople.

No. 330.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 6, 1895, midnight.*
I WAS informed to-day by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires that he had received a telegram from Athens, the substance of which he was anxious at once to communicate to me. He said that his Government had special means of knowing what was now

* Also to Mr. Gosselin (No. 101), Sir Clare Ford (No. 60), Sir E. Monson (No. 77), and Mr. Goschen (No. 231).

taking place in the Turkish capital, that according to their information there was great tension of feeling, and though it was to be hoped that such an extremity might be avoided, it was, in the opinion of the Greek Government, quite possible that at any moment a revolution might break out, in which case the lives of Christians without distinction of race would undoubtedly be sacrificed.

M. Metaxas stated that his Government made a very earnest appeal to this country as being the only Power which could interfere with effect, and added that violence would be prevented by the presence of British men-of-war in the Bosphorus.

No. 331.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 7.)

Admiralty, November 5, 1895.

Sir,

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from the Commanding Officer of Her Majesty's ship "Dolphin" dated the 15th October, respecting the state of affairs at Jeddah.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 331.

Commander Paget to Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour.

"Dolphin," at Jeddah, October 15, 1895.

Sir,

IN continuation of my last letter of proceedings of the 30th September, I beg to report that there is little change.

The Grand Shereef and Vali still remain at Mecca, and, fruitlessly, have been endeavouring to obtain the surrender of the perpetrators of the attack on the Consuls. They sent a deputation of Mecca Sheiks to Adan, on the Medina road, and there interviewed a Harb Sheik, Ahmed-ben-Nefaa, the ringleader of the murderers, who attended with a large following, but, though he was offered a safe-conduct, he absolutely refused to go to Mecca.

The French gun-boat "Etoile" sailed for Toulon on the 5th instant.

The French aviso "Papin" arrived here from Tamatave, Obock, and Aden on the 8th instant, and remains.

The Turkish gun-boat "Sayad Derja" left yesterday for Constantinople after several steam trials. She will have great difficulty in getting to Suez.

The Turkish transport "Mecca" arrived here on the 5th with over 1,900 troops, landing only nineteen and about fifty sailors here, after being stranded for one day in the inner harbour, she sailed finally on the 9th for Hodeida (where she lands 360) and Bussorah.

Two more Turkish transports with 1,048 and 1,100 troops have left Port Said for Hodeida, where, it is rumoured, there is a rising.

No reinforcements are expected here, nor is there any indication that the Vali will take the field to arrest the Consular murderers.

The health of the ship's company is satisfactory considering the length of time they have been debarred from going on shore.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED PAGET,
Commander and Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea

No. 332.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 7, 10·50 A.M.)

(No. 621.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 7, 1895.*

THE appointments are announced of Tewfik Pasha, late Ambassador at Berlin, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, and of Said Pasha, late Minister for Foreign Affairs, as President of the Council of the Empire. Several other Ministers changed, but Grand Vizier still unknown.

No. 333.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 623.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 7, 1895.*

HALIL RIFAT, ex-Minister of Interior, has been appointed Grand Vizier.

No. 334.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 624.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 7, 1895, 12·20 P.M.*

MY immediately preceding telegram.

The composition of the new Ministry makes it evident that the Sultan has determined on a retrograde policy, and intends to make no concessions whatever.

The new Grand Vizier, Halil Rifat Pasha, is a Turk of the old school, and a nonentity.

The Sultan has exiled Kiamil Pasha, alleged reason being his demand that greater powers should be given to the Porte, which was considered revolutionary by His Majesty.

No. 335.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 626.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 7, 1895, 6·20 P.M.*

THE Chairman of the Armenian Relief Committee here, being much opposed to distribution of relief by Turks, has asked me to request Mr. Hampson to stop distribution unless he can distribute personally and directly to the victims of Sasun.

I have communicated this message to Mr. Hampson to-day.

No. 336.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 627.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 7, 1895, 6·30 P.M.*

I WILL communicate the message in regard to Shefik Bey's appointment, conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 210 of yesterday, to the new Minister for Foreign Affairs on Friday, when his Excellency will receive the Corps

Diplomatique. It is apparently out of the question to get Hassan Fehmi Pasha appointed.

Would your Lordship approve of the appointment of Saïd Pasha, ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs? French and Russian Ambassadors favour his appointment, but think that if the suggestion came from us the Sultan would be sure to refuse it.

No. 337.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 43.) *Rome, November 7, 1895.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 60 dated the 6th November, Baron Blanc informs me that his latest reports from Constantinople announce that general anarchy prevails in the Turkish Empire, which endangers the lives of Christians irrespective of their nationality.

Baron Blanc added that Italy is inclined to come to an understanding, especially with England, with a view to protect the common interests of the two countries, and to the performance of our duties towards our respective subjects. No formal instructions seem to have been sent to Signor Pansa, the Italian Ambassador at Constantinople.

No. 338.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 38.) *Berlin, November 7, 1895, 2·40 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE acted on your Lordship's telegram No. 104 of to-day.

Some days ago the Minister for Foreign Affairs telegraphed to the German Ambassador at Constantinople asking his Excellency to report whether, in his opinion, a revolution or the Sultan's deposition was imminent. The Ambassador has stated, in reply, that there is no doubt as to the existence at Constantinople of increasing disaffection amongst not only the Christian, but also the Mahommedan population. He did not, however, think an outbreak imminent as, in view of the network of spies which the Sultan had organized, no one dared to make a move. No special instructions have therefore been sent by the German Government.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs told me that he would telegraph the substance of the Greek Government's report as given in your Lordship's telegram, and ask the Ambassador's opinion.

A telegram, apparently identic to that repeated to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 102 of yesterday, has been received here from the German Ambassador at Constantinople, who reports the state of the whole Turkish Empire as one of the utmost gravity.

Baron von Marschall fears that the new Grand Vizier (Rifaat Pasha) is now too old to be of much use in the present serious crisis, though he gained great credit some years ago by his successful organization of a Christian gendarmerie at Janina.

No. 339.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 82.) *Vienna, November 7, 1895.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to the telegram addressed to me by your Lordship No. 77, I am informed by Count Goluchowski that he has not received any such information, and that he regards as generally untrustworthy any news coming through Greek channels.

The Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople telegraphs that a more tranquil feeling prevails in the capital, and that the action taken by the Sublime Porte in consequence of the last representations made by the Embassies is satisfactory.

No. 341*.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 212.) *Foreign Office, November 7, 1895.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

URGENT representations have been made by Mr. Bompas, Q.C., on behalf of M. Knajian, a young Armenian clergyman, educated in England. He was arrested recently at Marsovan and taken to Yuzgat, whence it is believed he was transferred to Sivas, where it is feared he may be kept in chains.

I understand that communications in regard to him took place between Sir P. Currie and the Grand Vizier, and that the latter said that if there was no serious charge against the prisoner he should be taken back to Marsovan.

I request you to inquire how the matter now stands, and to telegraph any information you can obtain.

No. 342*.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 632.) *Constantinople, November 8, 1895, 12·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 212 of yesterday, I have the honour to state that Knajian was arrested at Marsovan on the 16th October, and has been conveyed to Sivas. He is charged with continuing the propaganda of Thoumaian.

Sir P. Currie made representations about his case to the Grand Vizier, who promised that he should be sent back if there was no serious charge against him, and the Vali of Angora informed Her Majesty's Consul that he would be well treated, and merely sent back to his native town of Orfa, on reaching which he would be set at liberty. It is at the present moment very difficult to insure the safety and proper treatment of individual Armenians in the provinces, but I will make fresh inquiries respecting Knajian of the present Grand Vizier.

No. 340.

Mr. Howard to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 53.) *Paris, November 7, 1895.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE addressed a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the sense of your Lordship's telegram No. 148 of the 7th instant, and I handed it to the Chief Under-Secretary this afternoon. He promised to reply as soon as possible, adding that he had not heard of a similar communication having been addressed by the Greek Minister to the French Government.

The reports they had received from Constantinople were not of quite such an alarming nature as that in question, but he could state to me that M. Berthelot had confirmed the general instructions sent by the late Ministry to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to consult with his colleagues for the protection of foreigners in the event of fresh disorders arising in that capital.

No. 341.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 108.) *St. Petersburgh, November 7, 1895.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

PRINCE LOBANOFF, to whom I have spoken on the subject of your Lordship's telegram No. 221, tells me that no further information respecting apprehended disturbances in Constantinople has been received beyond what M. de Nélidoff had communicated, and in consequence of which his Excellency had received the instructions which I have already telegraphed to your Lordship.

His Excellency considered these instructions sufficient for any emergency, and as they were sent by courier on the 1st November, they should have reached M. de Nélidoff by this time.

He added that the news of the changes in the Turkish Government had just arrived, and that M. de Nélidoff had expressed his dissatisfaction at the change which he regarded as a bad symptom, and one which might render a catastrophe more imminent.

No. 342.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 631.) *Constantinople, November 8, 1895, 10 50 A.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

THE United States' Minister has heard from his Consul at Sivas that the military force there is utterly inadequate, and that disciplined troops are urgently needed.

Massacres and pillage continue in the surrounding villages.

No. 343.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 633.) *Constantinople, November 8, 1895, 12·50 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

MR. HAMPSON reports that he has at last, through the Acting Vali, received a letter from the missionaries in Bitlis, dated the 6th November.

This letter confirms in general the account of the events given in Mr. Hampson's telegram of the 27th October, repeated to your Lordship in my telegram No. 545 of the 28th October.

The missionaries say that the authorities were certainly cognizant of the design, and that the police and soldiers played a very active part in the massacre.

They put down the number of killed in Bitlis alone, excluding the villages, at 500, while 100 Armenians are in prison there for participation in the disturbances.

The authorities accuse them of being the authors of the disturbances, and they are still besieged, and beg for foreign intervention on their behalf.

Mr. Hampson reports that two earlier letters from the missionaries had not reached him, while a letter that Mr. Hallward sent them by messenger from Van was not allowed to be delivered to them.

I propose to make constant representations at the Porte respecting the position of the missionaries, and I have communicated the information contained in Mr. Hampson's telegram to the United States' Minister.

No. 344.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 8.)

(No. 634.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 8, 1895, 7 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 205 of the 3rd November, M. de Nélidoff has now received instructions from his Government by post.

The Representatives of the Powers will meet to discuss general situation to-morrow evening.

No. 345.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 8.)

(No. 635.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 8, 1895, 7 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 342 of the 29th July, it is officially announced that the ex-Vali of Van, who was dismissed at the instance of this Embassy for his conduct as Governor, has received the Grand Cordon of the Osmanieh "for his good services."

No. 346.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 8.)

(No. 636.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 8, 1895, 11 P.M.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush telegraphs in reply to my inquiries that there is no question of the distribution of relief being intrusted to Turks, as the assistants who have been working with the missionaries will remain in Mush, and are thoroughly reliable and capable of continuing the work there.

No. 347.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 8.)

(No. 637.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 8, 1895, 11 P.M.

IN reply to Mr. Hampson's telegram of yesterday, repeated to your Lordship in my telegram No. 633 of the same date, I have to-day informed him that I have made representations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has promised to send orders to insure the safety of the missionaries and to maintain order. I have also sent him the following message from the United States' Minister:—

"Tell Americans at Bitlis that strict orders have issued from Sultan for their protection. His Majesty enjoins caution, and fears Armenians may assassinate and ascribe it to the Turks."

No. 348.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 8.)

(No. 324.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November* 6, 1895.

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI read to me this afternoon a telegram from Baron Calice, reporting the decision taken by the Representatives of the Great Powers yesterday at Constantinople, to make fresh and serious representations to the Porte respecting the massacres of Christians in Asia Minor.

His Excellency said that he expected to see the Turkish Ambassador after my interview, and that he should tell him plainly that there is abundant proof that, in some of the recent massacres, the butchery has been committed under the direct orders of the authorities, and that unless the Turkish Government takes without loss of time efficacious steps to protect the Christians and punish those who ill-treat them, the public opinion in every country in Europe will be so much aroused, that it will be impossible to prevent outside intervention in some form or another, thus opening the whole Eastern question, and producing a state of things which, however disagreeable and perhaps prejudicial to the interests of some of the Great Powers, will certainly have the most serious consequences for Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. MONSON.

No. 349.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 215.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 8, 1895, 4·30 P.M.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 627 of yesterday, relating to the selection of the President of the Commission of Control. I should certainly approve of the appointment of Said Pasha, the late Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the Presidency, but I concur in the opinion of your French and Russian colleagues that it will be refused if suggested by the three Powers.

No. 350.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Gosselin.

(No. 315.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 8, 1895.

COUNT METTERNICH called at this Office to-day and stated that the German Ambassador at Constantinople had reported, in reply to an inquiry addressed to him, that, in his opinion, the situation there was far from satisfactory, that the new Ministry had no authority, and that what was more serious was that the only troops on which reliance could be placed were those stationed at Yildiz.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 351.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 9.)

(No. 638.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 9, 1895, 12·5 P.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem reports that much excitement exists there and at Jaffa, and that four battalions of Reserves are being called out from the province for service, it is alleged, in Northern Syria.

No. 352.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 9.*)

(No. 639.) *Constantinople, November 9, 1895, 12·15 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

HER Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout telegraphs that the districts between Merj Ayoun and the Hauran are very disturbed, that bands of Druse brigands render the roads unsafe, and that the Metwalis are arming.

He reports that the authorities have called out the Reserves of the Syrian vilayets, but have hitherto taken no decisive measures to restore order, and recommends as most urgent the re-establishment of a military station at Banias, on the frontier of the two vilayets.

No. 353.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 9.*)

(No. 641.) *Constantinople, November 9, 1895.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

HER Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout telegraphs that the Christians in the interior are terrified, many having already fled to the Lebanon, and that he has received further news confirming his telegram reported to your Lordship in my telegram No. 639 of to-day. He reports that on the 6th instant one battalion of infantry and one of cavalry left Damascus for the Hauran.

No. 354.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 9.*)

(No. 643. Secret.) *Constantinople, November 9, 1895, 10·15 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HEAR that a telegram has been sent by the German Ambassador, who is alarmed at the present state of affairs, to his Government suggesting the assembling of a combined fleet at the mouth of the Dardanelles.

No. 355.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 9.*)

(No. 644. Very Secret.) *Constantinople, November 9, 1895, 10·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

THE Representatives of the Powers met to-day and discussed at length the question of what measures should be taken if disturbances arose here. We arrived at no conclusion, but the Russian Ambassador stated that a proposal had been submitted by him to his Government, and that if this were approved he would submit it to us at our next meeting on Monday.

We also decided that we should consult with the Captains of the "stationnaires" and report at the same meeting as to the number of men which could be landed to guard the Embassy buildings.

No. 356.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 9.*)

(No. 645.) *Constantinople, November 9, 1895, 10·50 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

YESTERDAY the French Consul arrived from Erzeroum on leave. He describes the scene during his journey as heartrending. The whole country between Trebizond and Erzeroum is devastated. On the outskirts of Baiburt he counted 100 dead bodies lying together near the road. Nearly all the villages are burned, and in many cases the male population entirely wiped out.

No. 357.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 9.*)

(No. 646.) *Constantinople, November 9, 1895, 10·45 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I PROPOSE to make immediate representations to the Porte on the subject of the following telegram which I have received from Consul Dickson at Jerusalem:—

"Mussulman mob attacked Church Missionary Society's Mission at Nablous. Missionaries so far safe, but some attendants wounded. I have telegraphed to Consul-General at Beyrout, in whose district Nablous lies."

No. 358.

Mr. Howard to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 9.*)

(No. 54.) *Paris, November 9, 1895.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE the honour to report, in continuation of my telegram No. 53 of the 7th instant, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs has sent me a message that previous to the receipt of my note he had sent telegraphic instructions to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to use every endeavour, in concert with his colleagues, to induce the Porte to take such measures as the situation might demand. He has since communicated to M. Cambon the substance of my note, at the same time confirming and renewing the instructions above referred to.

No. 359.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 9.*)

(No. 39.) *Berlin, November 9, 1895, 4·40 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

ACCORDING to a report received from the German Ambassador at the Porte, the situation since the fall of Kiamil Pasha is decidedly worse, and it is possible that an outbreak may occur in Constantinople.

Count Hatzfeldt, on the other hand, reports that M. de Nélidoff has sent less alarming news to M. de Staal.

M. de Saurma, the German Ambassador at Constantinople, has been authorized generally to take part in any steps which all the other Embassies may adopt.

No. 360.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 10.)

(No. 647.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 10, 1895, 10·30 A.M.

VICE-CONSUL HAMPSON telegraphs that the Kurds who are still pillaging the villages of the Mush plain have pillaged the village of Hitenk, in Sasun.

No. 361.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 10, 5 P.M.)

(No. 648.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, November* 10, 1895, 11·55 A.M.

MY telegram No. 640.

Following appointments are gazetted this morning:—

Kiamil Pasha to be Governor of Smyrna, Governor of Smyrna to be Governor of Salonica, Governor of Salonica to be Governor of Aleppo.

No. 362.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 10.)

(No. 649. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 10, 1895, 11 A.M.

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 643 and 644 of the 9th November, the most reliable and best informed people here think that if a Mussulman revolution takes place it will be effected quietly, and that the movement will be directed against the Sultan alone, and not against Christians.

Two other dangers exist, however: the possibility of the Sultan in his present state of mind exciting the Mussulmans against the Christians, and the danger of another rising by Armenians, who are again desperate, with the view of bringing about foreign intervention.

The former danger is much feared by the Greek Minister and the five Ambassadors, who are now all anxious to face the situation, and to discuss measures to be taken in the event of an outbreak, as during the last forty-eight hours they have become much more alarmed.

Personally, I am of opinion that no additional cause for alarm has arisen during the last three days, but that, although nothing may occur, we should be prepared for every contingency.

No. 363.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 10.)

(No. 650. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 10, 1895, 11·10 A.M.

M. DE NÉLIDOFF has heard, though he cannot vouch for the truth of the information, that leaders have been found for the Mussulman revolutionary movement. Two Generals and four Colonels are spoken of in connection with it.

No. 364.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 10.)

(No. 651.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 10, 1895, *noon.*

AS "Cockatrice" usually passes through here at this time of year, and her arrival would presumably excite no comment, I have suggested to Admiral that she should at once be ordered here from the Danube.

No. 365.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 10.)

(No. 652.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 10, 1895, 6·25 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 646, I have the honour to state that the Porte has telegraphed to the Vali of Syria instructing him to put a stop to disturbances, and to insure the safety of missionaries.

No. 366.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 10.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, November* 10, 1895, 3 P.M.

YESTERDAY the German Imperial ship "Moltke" left Brindisi for Smyrna.

No. 367.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 756.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 1, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 747 of the 30th October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the United States' Minister informing me of the representations he has made to the Sublime Porte respecting the safety of the American missionaries at Sasun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 367.

Mr. Terrell to Mr. Herbert.

Legation of the United States of America, Constantinople, October 30, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that representations have been made to the Sublime Porte for an efficient force to protect Americans engaged in distributing relief in the district of Sasun [*sic*] was expected by my Government, and who would return to resume their charitable work; that my Government would look to Turkey alone as responsible for their safety, and when this was assured they would resume their labours.

Accept my thanks for your promptness in advising me of the danger of my fellow-citizens now in Sasun.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) A. W. TERRELL.

No. 368.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 757.) *Constantinople, November 1, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Damascus respecting the state of affairs in that vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 368.

Acting Consul Meshaka to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.) *Damascus, October 18, 1895.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for [your Excellency's information, that the leniency of the Vali in dealing generally with affairs is encouraging highwaymen, rendering many parts of this province insecure, not a week passing without hearing an incident of plunder or murder in the outlying districts; even in Damascus quarrels resulting of insult, wounding, or murder have been of frequent occurrence.

I have the honour to cite some of these events.

In the district of Katana a party of Kurdish gendarmes meeting a few Druses shot two of them dead—and a Moslem passing by—under the pretext that the Druses had refused to show a licence for carrying arms; the others took to flight, calling out for their co-religionists, who joined them in assaulting a notable Kurd in the same district. And thus both tribes have been committing plunder and murder in the different parts of the province. The Vali has lastly delegated Notables of the two parties, and patched up matters leniently.

In the early part of this month two Druse highwaymen from Ain Kunyat Banias, of the Hasbeya district, shot a Metuali from El Khyam, of the Marj Oyoun district of the Vilayet of Beyrout. The Metualis in revenge afterwards killed a Druse from the same village by cutting him into pieces, and declared their purpose to attack the Druses. The Druses began to assemble their men at El Maree, four hours southward from Hasbeya, and the Metualis at El Khyam, three hours southwest from Hasbeya. About 1,000 double-barrelled guns have been purchased from this city by both parties. A great fear of the consequence was entertained by the population there, the roads having become insecure.

The Vali on hearing of the disturbance dispatched at once the Commandant of the gendarmes with a number of his men to Hasbeya to stop the Druses from assembling, and telegraphed to the Vali of Beyrout to do the same with the Metualis, with the object of reconciling the leaders of the two parties. To-day it has been reported that peace was concluded, one man having been lost from each side.

I have the honour to mention, also, one incident in town resulting from the ill-administration of the police authorities, who when being unable to arrest at Shagour an individual shot him dead on the 16th instant. Complaints were made to the Vali. His Excellency, considering that quarrels in town arise originally either from wandering wicked women or boys, convoked a meeting of the Notables of the city, and through them of the Moukhtars, enjoining upon them to locate those women in a special residence and the boys in schools, and making them responsible for future troubles.

I have the honour to report, further, that since the receipt of the news of the recent troubles at Constantinople there have been internal agitation amongst Moslems in town and a feeling of disquietude prevailed amongst Christians, fearing that the lower class of Mahommedans might at any future time be provoked against them, but their relations with each other are at present satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASIF MESHAKA.

No. 369.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 758.) *Constantinople, November 1, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despate which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout transmitting translation of a telegram received by the Vali of Beyrout respecting the introduction of reforms in Armenia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 369.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Beyrout, October 24, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith a translation of a telegram received yesterday by the Governor-General of Beyrout from the Grand Vizier relating to the introduction of reforms in the Armenian provinces.

This communication has been published in all the newspapers of Beyrout.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 369.

The Grand Vizier to the Vali of Beyrout.

(Translation.) *Constantinople, October 21, 1895.*

WE have learned that the Armenians have circulated misleading rumours regarding the reforms which it has been decided to introduce in some provinces. The steps taken for the introduction of reforms are not intended exclusively for the Armenians, but for the application within the Vilayets of Van, Mamouret-el-Aziz, Erzeroum, Bitlis, Diarbekir, and Sivas, of the Laws and Regulations contained in the Destour, and the useful Decrees and Articles promulgated in the Imperial Order of Gulhané and in the Firman of reforms.

The said reforms will be for the benefit of all the subjects of His Majesty, Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans, and measures will be taken with the view of generalizing them throughout all the Imperial provinces as far as they are required. I have therefore hastened to communicate to you the truth of the case.

The Grand Vizier,

(Signed) KIAMIL.

No. 370.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 760.) *Constantinople, November 1, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the apprehension felt as to disturbances in other parts of the vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 370.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, October 21, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to the inclosure in my despatch of the 18th instant, I have to inclose herewith copy of another from M. de Cortanze, stating that the report of a disturbance at Charshamba is refuted.

I may be allowed to state in this connection that similar rumours, followed by contradictions, are reaching me from other parts of the vilayet.

They serve to indicate an exceptional state of disquietude, arising probably from the impression that the lamentable events at Trebizond form one of a series accompanying or reflecting those of Constantinople. The country is, no doubt, passing through a severe political crisis. The maintenance of order, I think all the same, depends on the good-will of the Executive. There are lawless characters everywhere, who can and should be kept within restraint. In the case of Trebizond, this was not done effectively, and the consequences were heart-rending.

Ottoman officials, indeed, cannot understand that, in critical times, quick and decisive action is of paramount necessity.

The acceptance by the Sultan of the reforms which your Excellency kindly announced to me by wire will very likely prove propitious when made public, but I do not think it will meet the exigencies of the situation in these parts. The bad men among the Turks are now obviously becoming more arrogant and the good men more timid, so that it is scarcely questionable at present which party has the upper hand.

It is those impressions that induced me to telegraph to your Excellency this morning the opinion, that attacks on Armenians throughout the province are to be apprehended if condign punishment is not meted out to the ringleaders of the Trebizond massacre, adding that, to do this in safety, precautionary measures against the renewal of riots would have to be taken preliminarily.

I would like to point out here that any injudicious action may possibly bring about another outbreak, and this though it is generally believed that what was done was done on orders from Constantinople.

There seems to me only one way out of the difficulty. It is the dispatch here, without unnecessary delay, of a strong Commission of Inquiry, and the replacement of the troops here by such as have taken no part whatever in the disturbances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 370.

Mr. Cortanze to Consul Longworth.

Samsoun, le 18 *Octobre,* 1895.

M. le Consul,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que contrairement à ce que je vous ai annoncé dans ma précédente lettre, il ne s'est produit aucun trouble à Charshamba. Ce bruit a été répandu par un officier de la garnison de Charshamba qui a télégraphié de son autorité privée à notre Mutessarif et à la Sublime Porte.

Cet officier a été arrêté pour avoir donné cette fausse nouvelle.

Les bruits les plus divers et les plus sinistres circulent à chaque instant et l'on ne sait réellement plus à quoi et à qui croire.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) H. DE CORTANZE.

No. 371.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 764.)

Constantinople, November 5, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the proceedings of the authorities in connection with the recent riots.

I have caused representations to be made to the Porte respecting the conduct of the soldiers, as reported in Mr. Longworth's despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 371.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, October 18, 1895.

Sir,

I HAD an interview with the Vali yesterday. His Excellency persists in considering the recent disturbance as a sanguinary conflict between Turks and Armenians.

My arguments were lost upon him. He went so far as to say that tranquillity may yet be disturbed if the two youths who are alleged to have assaulted the Pashas are kept by the Armenians in hiding. He evaded telling me on what evidence the authorities believed them to be still alive at Trebizond.

As Cadri Bey could not give me any reassurances at present, I have decided to retain for at least a few days longer the guard of soldiers at the Consulate.

Mr. Cypreos, of the Greek Legation, who is Acting Consul here, called upon me to-day. He was a witness of the massacre along one of the main streets of the town. He, moreover, employed Greeks to bring him information of what was occurring elsewhere. His reports will doubtless prove of some value. Incredible as it may seem, what he saw and heard leads him to the conclusion that it was a planned attack on the defenceless male Armenians indoor and out-of-doors. The troops took a prominent part in the butchery. He indeed allows me to use his name in reporting that at five different parts of the town the slaughter commenced almost simultaneously, and this on the sound of a trumpet from the minaret of the mosque, near the Government House.

Mr. Cypreos estimates the Armenians killed as from 500 to 600, with from fifteen to twenty women. He finds that only seven Turks lost their lives, all, or nearly all, by accident. The bodies in the streets and in the houses were stripped naked, iron doors and safes broken open, and every article, to even pianos, in goods and chattels, carried off as booty.

The plunder is said to amount to at least 200,000*l.* in value, besides such losses as houses burnt and property stolen in the villages around belonging to Armenian merchants and to Armenian peasants.

I hear from other sources that about 150 shops and 200 houses had been looted, and that as yet only furniture, clothing, &c., of little value, have been recovered and restored.

The military continue to examine Armenians, of which some 400 are in prison. The result of their inquiries are kept secret. It will need, however, an extraordinary amount of credulity to convince any one that the investigation instituted by the Court-martial has been fair and impartial, particularly so if they arrive at the conclusion that the Armenians at Trebizond were in a state of insurrection.

The civil authorities are doing as usual their part of the work. They are having recourse to that worn-out expedient of compelling the inhabitants to sign a Declaration, stating that regrettable disorders had occurred, and attaching the blame to a latent spirit of revolt detected among some Armenians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 372.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 765.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 5, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the attitude of the Armenians in the recent disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 372.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, October* 28, 1895.

I RECEIVED your Excellency's telegram of the 26th instant, asking me to wire any information I may have on the attitude of the Armenians, as reports from the authorities of the Bitlis, Erzeroum, and Aleppo Vilayets state that they are provoking retaliation by attacking Mussulmans. I am therein further informed that some of the reserves in the six Armenian vilayets were about to be called out.

My reply by telegraph will have reached your Excellency this morning. It was to the effect that an Armenian Committee advocating violence doubtless exists, that a few among those who spoke and wrote of causing disturbances, if reforms were not granted, may have acted rashly; but that apart from the probability that Armenians wounded the two Pashas on the 2nd instant, there is no reason to think that at Trebizond itself Armenians contemplated an attack on the Moslems.

I should like to give here a little more fully my views on the subject, based on information taken from different sources.

It cannot be denied that of late years weapons from the Caucasus and seditious prints from Europe have been surreptitiously introduced and sedulously distributed among the Armenians in Asiatic Turkey. They may have influenced the minds of the people elsewhere, but in this vilayet even a ripple was not observable of a possible agitation. Secret agents, I believe, were to be found here, as in other Armenian centres. They were selected, doubtless, from among the more reckless and unscrupulous. Assassination of at first informers only, but now of Government officers and others obnoxious to the Society, appears to be the vow taken by these men. The basis of operations, which was a few months ago Athens, is now believed to be London. Nazarbeck, the editor of the "Hunteiak," is probably one of the chief originators and promoters of this baneful organization. Whoever they may be they are directing the movement from abroad, and, with all safety to themselves, are rendering existence for their countrymen unbearable in Turkey. The object may, or may not, be to rouse the Moslems against the Christians, and bring about such massacres as would horrify Europe. That it is anarchical in character must be patent to all, for in its conception enters the creation of political confusion and lawlessness through violent means, the aim being to further thus the cause of Armenia, securing for it not only reforms, but independence as a barrier or buffer State between Russia and Turkey in Asia.

National aspirations are legitimate enough perhaps, so long as they do not interfere with public order and security. The Armenians as a people would be content, I believe, if they could only have the enjoyment of safety to life, honour, and property. The Mussulmans are equally anxious to secure ameliorations, though it irritates them to find that their own sufferings and grievances are ignored, while those of the Armenians are championed by the Powers, especially England. The governing classes can, if they like, restrain them from causing disturbances. They did not do so at Trebizond. They, on the contrary, encouraged the massacre by enhancing in the eyes of the Turks a street assault into the importance of a general insurrection. The authorities unfortunately still persist in taking the one-sided view that a revolution was imminent, though the Vali has up to now been able to produce to me very insufficient proofs, and this after imprisoning the Armenians and searching thoroughly their houses.

The most important discovery is a seal bearing in Armenian words and letters what may be rendered thus in English: "A. R. Alliance. The Trebizond Committee."

It was found in the house of a joiner, named Manouk Tateosian, now in prison, who declares it to have been left in his safe-keeping by a certain Armenian killed in the massacre.

I cannot offer any opinion as to other parts, but here, at least, the Armenians were, and are still, in great stress: killed in cold blood, robbed of their goods, flung into gaol, not allowed to emigrate, blackmailed by the Moslems, and persecuted by the authorities, the poor people are in the deepest despair. There is a limit, however, to human endurance, and if therefore they really [?], who can blame them? One more remark, in conclusion. It is satisfactory to know that a portion of the reserves in the interior are about to be mobilized. The Executive will then have no excuse in any failure to maintain order. At Trebizond the troops were declared insufficient, but had they been more, their conduct was such that the carnage would have been greater.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 373.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 766.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 5, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the release of certain Armenian prisoners at Van and Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 373.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October* 21, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Mr. Vice-Consul Hallward reports that seven more Armenian prisoners at Van, viz., Nos. 12, 13, 14, 15, 94, 96, and 99 in the list which accompanied Mr. Graves' despatch of the 2nd May, have been released; and that Ohan Effendi, of Shattakh, referred to in Mr. Graves' despatch of the 21st May has been again imprisoned.

Mr. Hallward again insists on the necessity of some decision being arrived at with regard to the remaining prisoners, especially those of Shattakh, as they are simply being kept in prison indefinitely without trial.

Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush also writes, that the six young Armenians in the Bitlis prison, referred to in your Excellency's despatch of the 18th September, have been released.

Mr. Hampson had spoken to the Acting Vali on the subject when he was at Bitlis, and he had promised that they would be set free as soon as it could safely be done. He further adds that the accusation that they attempted to rape a Moslem woman is absurd. What they did was to endeavour to rescue from the hands of certain Kurds a girl whom they were led to believe was an Armenian. They failed, however, to prove their case, and their rashness resulted in their being imprisoned for some months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 374.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 767.) *Pera, November 6, 1895.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 612 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the identic communication to the Porte in regard to the state of affairs in the Turkish provinces, which was made verbally to the Minister for Foreign Affairs by the Representatives of the six Powers yesterday.

In making this communication to Said Pasha I pointed out that the five Ambassadors and myself were absolutely united in asking and even insisting, in the name of humanity, that order should be re-established, and I again expressed the hope that the Turkish Government would take every means in their power to put an end to the present state of affairs, which was becoming a menace to Europe and to the existence of the Turkish Empire.

Said Pasha said that he would give me a formal answer in a day or two. In the meantime he could assure me that the Turkish Government were doing their best to cope with the disturbances, and to that end had called out 60,000 more troops. His Excellency admitted that the situation was very serious, but he complained once more that it had been brought about by the attacks and aggressions of the Armenians, whom he described somewhat bitterly as our protégés.

I replied that it was not a question of who began the disturbances—that both Turks and Armenians were Ottoman subjects—and that the master ought to be able to keep order in his own house.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 374.

Identic Communication addressed to the Porte, November 5, 1895.

LES Représentants des six Grandes Puissances ont échangé leurs vues sur la situation dont la gravité leur est signalée par tous leurs Agents. Ils sont très inquiets de l'état des provinces, où règne une anarchie complète qui n'a plus de rapport avec l'agitation Arménienne et qui menace les Chrétiens de toute nationalité.

A Diarbékir le massacre et le pillage ont frappé indistinctement les Chrétiens des différents rites sans aucune provocation de leur part.

A Mossoul, à Bagdad, en Syrie, où il n'y a pas d'Arméniens, l'effervescence prend des proportions inquiétantes.

La Porte doit savoir par l'exemple de ce qui s'est passé en Syrie en 1860 que cette anarchie ne peut durer impunément.

Les Représentants des Puissances sont obligés d'en référer à leurs Gouvernements, qui se concerteront dans le cas où la Porte ne prendrait pas immédiatement des mesures efficaces.

Ils prient le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de leur faire savoir ce que le Gouvernement Ottoman compte faire pour mettre un terme aux désordres actuels.

No. 375.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 768.) *Constantinople, November 6, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of an account of the Trebizond massacres, signed by the local authorities civil and military, by the Ulemas, and by the Notables of the Mussulman, Orthodox, and Catholic religions, which has been communicated to me by the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 375.

Account of the Trebizond Massacres.

LE Général de Division Bahri Pacha, ex-Vali de Van, qui a passé quelques jours à Trébizonde en rentrant de Van, et Ahmed Hamdi Pacha, Commandant des Rédifs de Trébizonde, traversaient, Mercredi, le 20 Septembre, 1895 (v. s.), vers les 11 heures à la Turque du soir, en compagnie du Consul de Perse à Trébizonde, Razi Han; du Directeur des Postes et Télégraphes, Hadji Omer Effendi; et du Commandant de la Gendarmerie du vilayet, Suleiman Bey, qu'ils avaient rencontrés chemin faisant, la Rue Ouzoun Sokak débouchant à la Place Charki, dans la ville même de Trébizonde, lorsqu'un certain Armenak, domestique à l'Evêché Arménien, que l'on soupçonnait être affilié aux Comités révolutionnaires, et un autre individu, également Arménien, ont tiré sur eux plusieurs coups de revolver, et ont blessé Bahri Pacha à la cheville et Hamdi Pacha au pied. Armenak et son complice ont été arrêtés sur le champ.

Ce fait avant eu lieu à Trébizonde pour la première fois depuis que des Arméniens, sujets Ottomans, ont commencé à commettre des crimes, et à se mettre en rébellion dans quelques parties de l'Empire, a provoqué naturellement une certain émotion parmi la population, mais il n'a pas été suivi heureusement ce jour-là d'autre incident. Deux jours plus tard, soit le Vendredi, vers les 2 heures à la Turque de la nuit, quelques Musulmans appartenant au corps des métiers, ayant rencontré au quartier Ai Vassil un certain Hatchik, fils d'un coiffeur nommé Stépan, qui était recherché par la police sous la prévention d'avoir participé à l'agression contre les deux Pachas, lui ont adressé la parole dans les termes suivants: "L'autorité te cherche parce que tu es accusé de coups et blessures; où te sauves-tu?" Hatchik, saisissant aussitôt son arme, a fait feu sur eux à plusieurs reprises. Un certain Rahmi Effendi, qui passait en ce moment dans une rue voisine, ayant entendu la détonation, et voulant en connaître la cause, est entré dans la rue d'où venait le bruit, mais aperçu par Hatchik, il a été assailli à coups de revolver et tué.

Ce second incident succédant à l'autre à deux jours d'intervalle a produit une grande effervescence, et au bruit des coups de feu entendu des quartiers avoisinants, tout le monde s'est précipité dans les rues, les uns armés, et les autres sans armes. Une rumeur, suivant laquelle les Arméniens auraient attaqué le siège du Gouvernement et assassiné le Vali, ayant été répandue aux villages Musulmans situés à proximité de la ville, la population a commencé aussi à y affluer, et il en est résulté un grand encombrement et une très forte agitation. Cependant, les autorités civiles et militaires, ainsi que les zaptiés et les agents de police, aidés des Notables de la ville, ont occupé l'entrée de chaque rue, et ont réussi, avec beaucoup de difficulté, il est vrai, à calmer les esprits et à disperser la foule, en lui expliquant que les coups de feu entendus n'avaient aucune gravité, et que les Arméniens n'avaient fait rien de fâcheux.

La répétition des coups et blessures par les conjurés Arméniens, et la non-arrestation de l'un des agresseurs et de son complice, ont eu pourtant pour effet d'entretenir l'agitation publique. D'autre part, la méfiance témoignée à l'égard des Musulmans et de l'autorité par les Arméniens, qui n'ouvraient plus leurs boutiques et magasins, a nécessairement accentuée la tumulte. En présence de cette situation le prêtre Mesrob, représentant de l'Evêque Arménien, et les Notables de la communauté, ont été convoqués au siège du Gouvernement, mais deux seuls se sont présentés: le représentant de l'Evêque et le négociant Mahouhian. Ils ont été priés de déployer tous leurs efforts pour prévenir le renouvellement de pareilles scènes, qui sont de nature à détruire la confiance mutuelle entre les différents habitants, et pour découvrir et signaler à l'autorité le lieu où se cachaient les deux prévenus, dont l'arrestation devait ramener le calme et la tranquillité. En réponse à ces exhortations Mahouhian a déclaré qu'il ne s'est jamais mêlé, et qu'il ne se mêlerait pas non plus dans l'avenir, des affaires de la communauté. Le prêtre a répondu de son côté qu'il ne connaissait pas les prévenus, que, d'après ce qui se disait, les deux Pachas auraient été blessés par un soldat, et que Rahmi Effendi aurait été tué par un Musulman. Il a ajouté qu'il serait juste de mettre en état d'arrestation les vrais coupables et élargir les Arméniens emprisonnés par haine personnelle.

Il leur a été fait observer que les deux faits étaient de notoriété publique, constituaient même des cas de flagrant délit. Le premier avait eu lieu en plein jour,

les agresseurs avaient été aperçus par plusieurs personnes, et Hatchik Stépan, non encore arrêté, habitait la ville même. On était par conséquent mal venu à simuler l'ignorance et à prendre ainsi le parti des coupables. Mesrob et Mahoubian ont été donc engagés de nouveau à prendre en considération les conseils de l'autorité et envoyer les Notables de la communauté à conférer entre eux sur la situation, signaler confidentiellement le lieu où se cachaient Hatchik et son complice, et contribuer ainsi à calmer l'effervescence qui avait gagné la population.

Ces deux incidents ayant été suivis de la nouvelle des troubles suscités à Constantinople par quelques vagabonds Arméniens, la préoccupation du public s'est accrue davantage. Tout le monde a été alarmé et les Arméniens en général ont commencé à se promener tout armés et à ne plus ouvrir leurs magasins. Comme depuis le jour de l'incident, les Arméniens des villages environnants avaient commencé à affluer dans la ville, le Gouverneur-Général, voulant prévenir des rixes sanglantes et des actes de pillage, s'est rendu au marché accompagné du Président de la Municipalité, le Mardi, 26 Septembre au matin et rassemblant dans un magasin un grand nombre de notables Musulmans et Chrétiens pris dans le corps des métiers, il leur a adressé des conseils, les exhortant à ne pas troubler l'ordre et la tranquillité et à cesser le tumulte. C'est précisément en ce moment que des coups de fusil et de revolver se sont fait entendre subitement de tous côtés sur la Place Charki. Il était alors environ 3 heures et demie à la Turque. Au milieu du trouble qui régnait, il n'a pas été possible de déterminer le lieu où la bagarre avait tout d'abord éclaté. Le fait est que plus les troupes Impériales, les agents de police, et les zaptiés travaillaient à réprimer l'émeute, plus l'audace des Arméniens augmentait. C'est de leurs boutiques et magasins, des chambres de dessus, des fenêtres donnant sur les rues et de partout où il se trouvaient qu'ils tiraient sans cesse sur les soldats, les zaptiés, et la population indistinctement. Le Vali apprenant l'émeute, s'est rendu en toute hâte sur les lieux. Malgré sa présence, le feu a continué, dirigé contre les officiers de l'armée régulière et du corps des zaptiées qui, postés devant les hans et les boutiques, engageaient les émeutiers à quitter leurs armes et à se mettre sous la protection de l'autorité qui saurait les défendre. On n'a pas épargné non plus la personne du Gouverneur contre lequel on a tiré plusieurs coups. A la vue d'un soldat et de deux ou trois particuliers Musulmans blessés ainsi que de deux autres gisant raides morts, l'agitation des Musulmans et des gens qui s'étaient rassemblés est arrivée à son paroxysme. Ce n'est que vers les 9 heures seulement à la Turque que l'on a pu à grand'peine rétablir l'ordre. Les cadavres étendus dans les rues et les boutiques ont été transportés cette même nuit dans les magasins inoccupés et les blessés ont été installés dans leurs maisons et à l'hôpital.

Après que la bagarre eut pris fin, les Arméniens qui étaient restés enfermés dans les maisons, les hans, et les magasins en ont été retirés et débarrassés de leurs armes. Jusqu'à ce que même la surexcitation fût calmée, ils ont été installés dans les hôtels des autorités civiles et militaires, et ceux qui parmi eux et parmi les familles réfugiées dans quelques maisons Musulmanes et à l'école Catholique étaient dépourvus de moyens, ont reçu du pain et tout ce qui leur était nécessaire. Quand l'ordre a été complètement rétabli, les récidivistes et les prévenus qui ont pu être saisis ont été déférés à la cour martiale et tous les autres ont regagné leurs foyers.

Les sujets Ottomans et les étrangers qui avaient cherché un asile chez les Consuls au moment de la bagarre ont été transportés par groupes chez eux et en vue de protéger pendant l'action contre toute attaque les Consulats étrangers, les écoles, et les établissements du culte ainsi que les habitations des sujets étrangers, tous ces édifices ont été gardés par des troupes régulières et des zaptiés. Quelques familles même ont été mises en sûreté dans des maisons de Notables Musulmans et partout où la troupe et les zaptiés ont fait défaut, ce sont les Primats Musulmans et Chrétiens qui y ont suppléé. Pour aider l'autorité dans son œuvre de pacification, une Commission a été instituée sous la présidence du Receveur-Général du vilayet, composée de notables Musulmans, Orthodoxes, et Catholiques. Sa mission consiste à rassurer les esprits, pourvoir à la subsistance des nécessiteux, faire soigner les blessés, faire rendre les objets qui auraient été volés pendant la bagarre tant au marché que dans les maisons, prévenir toute attaque des villages Arméniens aux alentours de la ville par d'autres villages, découvrir les objets qui y auraient été perdus et si l'on venait à apprendre quelque projet d'attaque de villages Musulmans et Chrétiens ou loin de la ville de Trébizonde par des villages voisins Arméniens, aviser aux mesures nécessaires de concert avec la force armée et le corps

des zaptiés ainsi que des Primats de ces villages. L'effectif existant de ce dernier corps n'étant pas suffisant, 200 nouveaux zaptiés ont été enrôlés provisoirement. En un mot, ce que la prévoyance indique a été exécuté en vue de parer à toute éventualité.

Après la complète répression des troubles, il a été procédé à une enquête minutieuse en vue de découvrir les auteurs des premières fusillades. Il a été ainsi constaté que le Mardi matin, 6 Septembre, jour de l'émeute, quelques conjurés étaient attendu de Constantinople sur le bateau Autrichien. Un rassemblement inusité d'Arméniens ayant eu lieu au débarcadère près de la Place Charki, la curiosité de la population s'est éveillée. Parmi les lettres apportées par ce bateau et distribuées par la poste il y en a eu une à l'adresse de l'homme d'un certain Chvarch d'Erzindjan, demeurant au han, vis-à-vis de l'Hôtel Municipal, qui se trouve sur la même Place Charki. Cette lettre contenait des détails sur l'incident de Constantinople et rendait compte de la mort du frère du destinataire. Celui-ci, aussitôt qu'il a lu la lettre, s'est mis, de la fenêtre de la chambre qu'il occupait, à tirer sur les passants des coups de revolver, en disant qu'on devait agir ainsi en pareille occurrence. Immédiatement après, quatre ou cinq coups de fusil et de révolver sont partis du magasin des Diradourian, en face du han et au-dessous de l'Hôtel Municipal. Ces coups ont été suivis de plusieurs autres tirés par les Arméniens rassemblés au débarcadère. C'est ainsi que la foule qui se trouvait sur cette place et dans les rues a été forcée bon gré mal gré de riposter.

Le fait que quelques-uns des individus ayant fait feu pendant l'émeute de l'intérieur des maisons Arméniennes étaient des habitants des villages environnants descendus en ville le matin; que les premiers coups ont été tirés par eux et de différents points; qu'avant la bagarre les boutiques et les magasins avaient été fermés; que les Arméniens eux-mêmes reconnaissent ces faits; et qu'enfin les officiers de l'armée et du corps des zaptiés, en les exhortant à faire leur soumission et à déposer leurs armes, ont été accueillis par des coups de fusil et de pistolet, ainsi qu'il a été exposé plus haut, prouve surabondamment que les émeutiers avaient résolu de produire dans le pays un grand carnage.

Il est digne de remarque que le susnommé Chvarch d'Erzindjan, de la chambre duquel est parti le premier coup, bien qu'affilié au Comité révolutionnaire, et quoique coupable de plusieurs crimes, a bénéficié de l'amnistie accordée par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. De même, les Diradourian comptent parmi les individus les plus suspects.

Comme il est impossible aux Arméniens de nier qu'ils ont été les auteurs de ces troubles, ne trouvant rien à dire, ils se bornent à maudire les misérables qui ont agi et les vouent à la vengeance Divine.

No. 376.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 769.)
My Lord,

Pera, November 7, 1895.

AS an impression is prevalent here, and to some extent confirmed by Consular reports, that the Armenians have on several occasions taken the initiative against the Mahommedans in the provinces, and that the revolutionary movement among them is growing more aggressive, I instructed Mr. Eliot to call on the Armenian Patriarch and urge him to send a further Circular exhorting his people to tranquillity.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a report by Mr. Eliot of the Patriarch's language.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 376.

Memorandum.

I INFORMED the Armenian Patriarch this afternoon that the reports received from our Consular officers accused the Armenians of several districts, particularly the inhabitants of Zeitoun and Marash, of taking the initiative in provoking disturbances,

and urged him, as instructed, to send a second Circular to the Armenian ecclesiastical authorities. At last, after great pressure and with evident unwillingness, his Beatitude promised to immediately dispatch a telegram to all the Armenian vilayets exhorting his people to remain quiet and patient until the reforms granted by the Sultan should be published and executed.

He said he did not deny the importance of the revolutionary movement among the Armenians, but what gave it its present force? Some influence was at work which was not under his control. The Armenians, as he knew them, were poor broken-spirited people, too timid to raise their hands against the Turks. Yet in many places they seemed to have become possessed of money and misplaced courage. He attributed this state of things to the action of Russian agents, who brought money and arms into Armenia from Tiflis. Whenever the Turks attempted to arrest them, the Russian Embassy intervened, and they merely left the country, or even returned to the scene of their exploits. He had no pretensions to understand politics, but he imagined the explanation of Russia's conduct to be as follows:—

By the Treaty of San Stefano she had arranged the affairs of the East, but all Europe had objected to that arrangement. Russia was therefore determined to do nothing to ameliorate the state of Christians in Turkey until every one in the East, as well as the West, should turn to her as the only Power capable of dealing with the problem, and beg her to settle it as she thought best. He believed she was encouraging massacres in Asia Minor at present in the hope that she would be invited to occupy Armenia. He hated the Russians as a selfish and tyrannical nation, who desired to stamp out the Armenian language and religion, but, if the next fortnight should witness as many massacres as the last, he could only implore them to march to Erzeroum and save his people from slaughter.

He contrasted the action of the Powers in regard to Bulgaria and Armenia. The Bulgarians had attacked the Turks and massacred them wholesale, but this conduct had not alienated the sympathies of Europe. Now, whenever Armenians, driven to desperation, killed a few Turks, the Powers seemed to think that the whole nation had forfeited all claim to assistance.

He would send the telegram in order to show the Embassy, the Porte, and the English people that he was against every form of revolutionary movement, but he feared that its effect would be small. He had no influence over the agitators, and the Turkish Government had done their best to destroy his prestige with his own people. He could not even write his telegram in effective language; for instance, the police would not let him telegraph that the Embassies had communicated to him the scheme of reforms. He could only urge the necessity of having confidence in the benevolent wisdom of the Sultan, and he knew that the impression produced on Armenians in the provinces would be that he had been forced by the Porte to send the telegrams, just as they were forced to sign loyal and thankful Addresses.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Constantinople, November 1, 1895.

No. 377.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 255.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November* 7, 1895.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 404 of to-day, I communicated to Baron von Marschall the substance of the information communicated to your Lordship by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, with regard to the critical state of affairs in the Turkish capital, and inquired of his Excellency whether similar news had reached Berlin; and, if so, what instructions the Imperial Government proposed to send to Constantinople.

His Excellency replied that some days ago rumours had reached him—he did not say from what source—as to the likelihood of a rising in Constantinople, or at all events a deposition of the Sultan, and he had consequently telegraphed to Baron de Saurma to inquire whether he considered either event probable.

His Excellency had replied that there was no doubt that the disaffection of all classes and creeds in Constantinople to the Sultan's rule was increasing in volume, but that in view of the network of spies and the army of informers with which His Majesty had succeeded in surrounding the Palace, no one dared to make the first

move; and that he considered that for this reason, but not from any spark of loyalty, amongst either the Christian or Mahommedan population, there was no immediate fear of an outbreak.

Baron von Marschall said that under these circumstances he had not sent any special instructions to Constantinople—in case of a revolution—"Indeed, I do not quite see what could yet be done."

His Excellency begged me to express his thanks for your Lordship's communication, which he would transmit by telegraph to Baron von Saurma, and ask for his immediate opinion thereon.

He said that the German Government considered the state of things, not only in Constantinople itself, but throughout the whole Empire, as exceedingly grave, and proceeded to give me a report of the meeting of the Representatives of the Powers on the 5th instant, confirming entirely the news transmitted to your Lordship by Mr. Herbert in his telegram No. 590 of the 5th.

His Excellency said that the new Grand Vizier, Rifaat Pasha, gained some credit some years ago by his successful administration in Albania, where he organized a Christian gendarmerie for the district of Janina, but he feared that he had now reached an age when it would be hopeless to expect from him much energy in surmounting the numberless difficulties which he would have to face.

His Excellency added that Tewfik Pasha, the Ottoman Ambassador here, had called on him the day he left Berlin to say that he had received the Sultan's orders to come as quickly as possible to Constantinople; but Baron von Marschall seemed to doubt whether the Ambassador's counsels would be of much service to his Imperial Master, an opinion in which any one who knows the amiable Ambassador will most certainly concur.

Since our interview a telegram has been received here saying that Tewfik Pasha has been nominated Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tewfik Pasha is considered here as an "homme du Palais," with little or no initiative of his own; he is a personal friend of the Sultan, and in as far as he has any independent views, he is credited with being in favour of a Russian alliance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 378.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 654.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 11, 1895, 11:10 A.M.

I INFORMED Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo of a rumour which had come to my ears that the Zeitounlis had offered to capitulate, and I have now received the following answer:—

"The Ferik has informed me confidentially that the Zeitounlis have offered to capitulate peaceably. He sincerely hopes that this offer will not be refused."

No. 379.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 216.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1895, *midnight.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 653 of to-day, in which you transmit a further message from the Sultan expressing surprise at having received no answer to his former message, in which His Imperial Majesty renewed his promises respecting the execution of reforms in the Armenian provinces, and appealed to Her Majesty's Government for assistance in his task.

In reply, you should explain to His Imperial Majesty that my answer to his last message was deferred until he had fulfilled the promise conveyed in it to publish immediately the scheme of reforms with a further iradé, and you may express my great regret and disappointment at the postponement of the publication.

You will convey to His Imperial Majesty my respectful acknowledgments for his assurances of friendship to this country, and inform him that Her Majesty's Government are still desirous of assisting him, but that they consider it indispen-

sable that measures should be taken to repress and prevent the attacks on the Christian population by the Mahommedans, which are taking place in various portions of the Ottoman dominions. The reports which have reached us show that the Sultan is mistaken in his belief that the Armenians have provoked these disorders. We are informed that on nearly every occasion this was not the case, and that in too many instances the Turkish authorities and troops have encouraged and even taken part in the outrages which have occurred.

The fact that the Sultan recently decorated an officer, whom he had dismissed on the ground of gross misgovernment, does not encourage Her Majesty's Government to feel any confidence in the earnestness of His Imperial Majesty's intention to give serious effect to the promised measures of reform.

No. 380.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 255. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 4, 1895.*

I DULY communicated to Prince Lobanoff the substance of Mr. Herbert's telegram to your Lordship respecting the alarming position of the missionaries at Bitlis, and, as I informed your Lordship by telegraph, his Excellency stated that M. de Nélidoff would be sure to support Mr. Herbert's representations to the Porte if called upon to do so, as he had full instructions to join with his colleagues in any endeavour to secure tranquillity and prevent loss of life.

His Excellency expressed himself as being much perturbed, though not surprised, at the continual reports of disturbances and massacres in Asia Minor, which reached him from Constantinople. He was of opinion that, notwithstanding the publication of the "Irade" granting the reforms, it would take some time before the situation would improve, owing to the fever of excitement under which both the Mahommedans and the Armenians were labouring. This excitement was, he said, the natural result of the uncompromising manner in which the Armenian question had been taken up. He spoke very warmly on the subject, and did not conceal from me his opinion that England was chiefly responsible for this state of things, owing to the encouragement given to the Armenian Committees by so many of her leading men.

Where was this going to stop? his Excellency continued; paper reforms had been granted, but in the meantime, the blood of both Mahommedans and Armenians was up, and attacks on the one side and reprisals on the other were taking place day by day. Now, to crown all, there was the growing agitation among Turks of all classes against the Sultan's Government and the Sultan himself—a danger of which the gravity could hardly be exaggerated.

In speaking further of this agitation among the Mahommedans, he told me that he had received a very alarming account of the state of affairs in Constantinople from M. de Nélidoff, who was of the opinion that disturbances might break out there at any moment. As, in the event of such disturbances taking place, the Christians would surely be the first to be attacked, he had instructed M. de Nélidoff to lose no time in taking every precaution and to consult with his colleagues as to the best means of saving the lives of their respective fellow-countrymen should they be in danger. At the same time, as he knew from his own experience the difficulty of keeping anything secret in that "nid de commérages," Constantinople, he had impressed upon his Excellency the importance of avoiding premature alarm, and had begged him to exercise the greatest prudence, both in his consultations with his colleagues and in any preparations for saving the lives of his countrymen, which he might deem it his duty to make.

Prince Lobanoff expressed to me the hope that your Lordship would send similar instructions to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

No. 381.

Tewfik Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(Communicated by Rustem Pasha, November 12.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 11 Novembre, 1895.*

LES nouveaux renseignements qui nous parviennent de Diarbékir établissent d'une manière évidente que les derniers désordres survenus dans cette ville ont été provoqués par les agitateurs Arméniens seuls. Les coups de revolver tirés par ceux-ci sur les mosquées au moment où les Musulmans faisaient leurs prières de Vendredi et leurs attaques à main armée contre les Musulmans ont été l'unique cause de ces troubles.

Quant à l'incendie qui a éclaté dans la ville, il a été également provoqué par des Arméniens; car il avait pris naissance à un endroit contigu aux maisons Arméniennes d'où partaient continuellement des coups de fusil. Les Musulmans peuvent d'autant moins être accusés d'être les auteurs de cet incendie que les 90 pour cent des magasins et boutiques détruits leur appartenaient. De même que la très grande partie des marchandises brûlées étaient aussi leur propriété.

Le Vali d'Adana nous informe de son côté qu'environ 200 Arméniens déguisés en Circassiens ont attaqués les villages Musulmans de Zéitoun, Beli, et de Narl, en commettant toutes sortes de déprédations. Des mesures efficaces sont adoptées pour leur répression.

No. 382.

Tewfik Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(Communicated by Rustem Pasha, November 12.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 11 Novembre, 1895.*

LES émeutiers de Zéitoun ont attaqué le village de Tchoukour-Hissar, tué trente-cinq Musulmans, commis des actes de pillage, enlevé les armes, bestiaux, et objets des habitants du village Musulman de Deunghel, et assassiné le Secrétaire de la Direction des Impôts à Zéitoun. On ignore le sort de la femme et des quatre enfants de ce fonctionnaire.

No. 383.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 656.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 12, 1895, 10·15 A.M.*

I WAS informed yesterday by M. Cambon that he had asked his Government that French fleet should be sent to the Levant.

The French will probably send ships to the Syrian coast if the Catholics are attacked by the Druses, who, according to French Consuls in Syria, have hoisted the English flag.

No. 384.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 658.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 12, 1895, 10·25 A.M.*

ACCORDING to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 210 concerning the appointment of Shefik Bey to the Presidency of the Commission of Control, I told the Minister for Foreign Affairs that this appointment would not be accepted by Her Majesty's Government.

I was informed, in reply, that another person would be appointed, as Shefik Bey had resigned.

No. 385.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 659.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 12, 1895, 10·25 A.M.

THE American Vice-Consul at Sivas has telegraphed to the United States' Minister here that the villages round Sivas have been pillaged. Great alarm prevails in Sivas itself, and at Malatia a serious massacre has taken place, four Jesuits having been killed.

No. 386.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 660. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 12, 1895, 10·35 A.M.

THERE was another meeting of the Representatives of the Great Powers last night, when M. de Nélidoff made the following proposal: That each Representative should apply to his Government to hold a gun-boat or light-armed vessel in readiness to dispatch to Constantinople to act as second "stationnaire," such vessel to have a crew of not less than 100 or more than 200 men; that as soon as we have all received answers from our Governments, and if they approve, another meeting will be held to decide whether the vessels shall be sent at once or not.

M. de Nélidoff insisted that the presence of six gun-boats with 600 men must produce a great moral effect here, and hinted that the adoption of his proposal might obviate the necessity of having recourse to measures involving political complications.

I believe a similar measure was adopted in 1876, when each Government had two "stationnaires" here.

As the other Representatives approved of the proposal, I agreed to submit it to your Lordship, but, if the danger here is imminent, I do not consider it very practical, as the Sultan has it in his power to delay the granting of the Firmans for the passage of the Straits for weeks, and, unless great pressure is brought to bear upon him, he will probably do so.

If your Lordship approves the proposal, will you inform me of the name of the vessel designated, and of her whereabouts?

We also agreed upon the arrangements for landing the crews and arms from the "stationnaires" in the event of disturbances.

No. 387.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 661.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 12, 1895, 11·30 A.M.

I REPEATED yesterday to the new Grand Vizier the arguments used on former occasions in regard to the publication of reforms, and pressed his Highness to proceed with it.

In reply, the Grand Vizier used language similar to that employed by the Sultan in his message to your Lordship of the 10th instant, and stated that it would be absolutely dangerous to publish reforms at this moment in view of the present effervescence among the Mussulmans.

An appeal was also made to me by his Highness that at this critical juncture the Turkish Government might receive the assistance of England.

I reminded him that the friendly advice which Her Majesty's Embassy had repeatedly offered had been hitherto steadfastly ignored by the Turkish Government, that every measure which had been suggested by us for the better government in the

No. 389*.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Secret.) *Foreign Office, November* 12, 1895.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a telegram from Mr. Herbert, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople,[a] reporting that the Representatives of the six Great Powers, at a meeting held yesterday evening, had agreed, on the proposal of the Russian Ambassador, to apply to their respective Governments to hold in readiness for dispatch to Constantinople a gun-boat or light-armed vessel to act as second "stationnaire."

A telegram has been addressed to Mr. Herbert in reply, inquiring whether the arrival of the "Cockatrice," suggested by him, as their Lordships are aware from the telegram communicated in my letter of yesterday, would satisfy the proposal of the Russian Ambassador so far as the presence of Her Majesty's ships is concerned.

Lord Salisbury will be glad to be favoured with the observations of the Lords Commissioners on the Russian Ambassador's proposal.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

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* No. 388.

provinces had been opposed by them step by step, and that the present state of affairs was entirely due to the policy which they had thought fit to pursue in spite of all our warnings.

No. 388.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 662.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 12, 1895, 11·25 A.M.

MR. HAMPSON telegraphs that the news of the disturbances in Diarbekir has caused a return of the panic in Mush, and that the situation in Sasun and Talori is very bad. The Kurds have pillaged several villages and are threatening others, and complete panic reigns. If preventive measures are not taken at once the whole of the relief work will be wiped out. Mr. Hampson has again made urgent representations to the Mutessarif, who promised to send soldiers to Sasun; he cannot, however, send them to Talori, which is in the Sandjak of Guendj.

No. 389.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 664.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 12, 1895, 7·15 P.M.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van telegraphs as follows:—

"The village of Serai, which is principally inhabited by Nestorians, has been sacked by the Kurds. The bazaar and private houses were plundered, and every sort of property was swept away. No interference was attempted by the Kaimakam or the small military force there. Several other villages have been sacked by the Kurds, and no attempt is made by the Government to check them. Indeed, they appear to tacitly approve proceedings by which thousands of Armenians have become destitute and homeless, and they have done nothing whatever to punish authors of outrages reported in my telegram of 2nd November. In the town great alarm is felt, and no business is being carried on. There is urgent need for strong measures in order that the state of anarchy may be put an end to."

I have brought this telegram to the notice of the Turkish Government.

No. 390.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 665.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 12, 1895, 10·45 P.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo has sent me the following telegram to-day:—

"A mule-driver just arrived from Marash states that last Sunday week a horrible massacre occurred there. A large number of Armenians were slaughtered by the Reserves from Aleppo, aided by Circassians who suddenly entered the city. The bodies of the dead were buried together in a pit in the churchyard, having previously lain exposed for three days.

"The post is said to have arrived here four days ago, but the fact was concealed by the authorities, who feared to let the news be known. I had been without news from Marash for twelve days.

"Authorities arrested two special messengers from Aintab with letters for me, which the Vali detained.

"At present all is quiet at Aleppo, but if the Reserves return here outrages will be repeated."

No. 391.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 217.) *Foreign Office, November* 12, 1895.
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 660 of to-day, relative to a proposal made by the Russian Ambassador that each of the six Powers should hold a small vessel in readiness to send to Constantinople to act as a second "stationnaire" in case of necessity.

Would the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" satisfy M. de Nélidoff's proposal as far as regards Great Britain?

No. 392.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 327.) *Vienna, November* 7, 1895.
My Lord,

I LOST no time in communicating to Count Goluchowski, as instructed by your Lordship, the contents of your telegram No. 77 of yesterday respecting the news received by the Greek Government as to the danger of a proximate revolution at Constantinople.

His Excellency said that he had received no such information; and that he considered everything coming from a Greek source, or through Greek channels, as very untrustworthy. In his opinion the Greeks have not at this moment any exceptional facilities for procuring authentic intelligence of importance from Constantinople.

The latest telegram from Baron Calice reports that the Turkish Government had acted promptly and satisfactorily on the last representations made to them by the Embassies of the Great Powers, and that a more assured and tranquil state of feeling is now prevalent at Constantinople.

No improvement, however, had been reported from the provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 393.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 128.) *Athens, November* 7, 1895.
My Lord,

AWARE that the Greek Legation at Constantinople has admirable information as to the condition of that capital, I generally ask for news from there when I go to see M. Skouzès at his office.

I saw him two days ago, and he mentioned, in answer to my inquiry, that there seemed dissatisfaction amongst the Young Turkish party, and that an incendiary Proclamation had been found in the Palace itself, but he did not say more than I had seen in the papers, and he did not speak with any detail either of the impending danger of a revolution or of the probability of a fanatical attack on the Christians at Constantinople.

To-day, when I had occasion to see him on some current business, I said that I had learnt that the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London had urged the imminence of the danger in Constantinople, and had been instructed to appeal to Her Majesty's Government. Had he any fresh news?

He answered that under the critical circumstances of the moment he had addressed the Great Powers, asking what they would do.

The massacres of Christians were taking place in town after town; at Diarbekir there had been a terrible outbreak, and he had just received a telegram, waiting to be decyphered, which probably contained an account of further bloodshed. He expected to hear bad news from Syria, but he had received no fresh grave reports respecting Constantinople itself since I had last seen him.

I asked him if the Greek Representative had expressed any immediate apprehensions for the safety of the Christians in the capital, and he answered that

M. Mavrocordato did not consider that there was peril at the actual moment, or for the next few days, but the general position was threatening. The events in the provinces excited Mussulman fanaticism, and, as was evident, there was discontent in Constantinople.

His Government, consequently, thought it incumbent on them to have recourse to the Great Powers.

He never to me suggested any measure such as the dispatch of ships by Her Majesty's or any other Government to the Bosphorus.

I did not go to M. Delyanni to-day to speak to him on this subject, as he has left Athens for Nauplia on account of his sister's serious illness there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 394.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 668.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 13, 1895, 11·30 A.M.

MR. CUMBERBATCH telegraphs that Arabkir was the scene of great disorders on the 10th November.

No. 395.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 669.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 13, 1895, 11·30 A.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 217 of the 12th November, I have the honour to state that the proposal of the Russian Ambassador contemplated a vessel of a different class to the "Cockatrice," which is only a river-boat, and carrying a larger complement of men.

If the other Powers each send a large gun-boat here, I think it would have a better effect if we did likewise.

No. 396.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 670.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 13, 1895, 1·30 P.M.

THE American Consul at Sivas has telegraphed to the United States' Minister that a massacre has commenced there.

I have sent Mr. Block to the Palace to make representations.

No. 397.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 672.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 13, 1895, 6·45 P.M.

MY telegram of to-day No. 670.

The American Vice-Consul at Sivas has sent a further telegram to his Minister reporting a great massacre there, but adding that order is now partially restored; foreigners were well guarded.

Representations have been made at the Porte by the French Ambassador, the United States' Minister, and myself.

No. 398.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 13.)

(No. 673.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 13, 1895, 6·50 P.M.

MY telegram No. 641 of 9th November.

Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout telegraphs that the authorities at Damascus have expelled all the Druses from the town to save them from the fanaticism of the Mussulman population; that absurd reports are current in Beyrout and Damascus in regard to the Druses being incited by the English; that several battalions have left Damascus for the Hauran; and that other troops are following.

No. 399.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 13.)

(No. 674.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 13, 1895, 6·45 P.M.

I RECEIVED the following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo dated yesterday:—

"The British Vice-Consul at Mersyna has received two telegrams from Missionary Martin requesting him to proceed to Hadjin, but I have instructed him not to comply with Mr. Martin's request, who has been informed that troops are at his disposal either to protect him at Hadjin or to escort him and his family to the coast.

"If the missionary is in personal danger, the presence of the Vice-Consul would do no good, and his life would be equally in danger.

"Mr. Martin would, I think, be unwilling to leave Hadjin without orders from the Society, but he ought to leave while it is still possible."

I have to-day telegraphed to Mr. Barnham approving his action, and informing him that the Bible House, though they refuse to order Mr. Martin to leave Hadjin, have authorized him to do so. I have at the same time instructed Mr. Barnham to insist on troops being sent to protect him in any case.

No. 400.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 13.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November* 13, 1895.

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI has informed me that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in London had been instructed by him to inquire your Lordship's views as to what should be done to insure the safety of foreign residents at Constantinople in case of a revolutionary outbreak, and his Excellency read to me your Lordship's reply, which had been transmitted to him by Count Deym.

Count Goluchowski entirely approves the arrangement as to a second "stationnaire," but if massacres began in the town this alone would not suffice.

As the six Powers will shortly all have a naval force in the neighbourhood of Constantinople, and as they agree in acting for the general interest, Count Goluchowski thinks that an understanding should be arrived at that they are entitled, in case of need, to exact from the Turkish Government the right to send their ships of war through the Dardanelles. In his Excellency's opinion the Powers have a clear right to impose this view upon Turkey, being her protectors; and that Constantinople should be as accessible to their squadrons as Beyrout or Smyrna at a moment of such grave peril.

The Admirals of the various squadrons should receive instructions to dispatch them immediately on being warned by the Diplomatic Representatives at Constantinople, and each Power should bind itself to send a limited number of ships.

His Excellency feels sure that it is only prudent to arrive at an understanding

No. 402 A.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 218.)
(Telegraphic.) F. *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1895.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 665 of yesterday.

You will remember that the Admiral is authorized to send a ship to Alexandretta if necessary. If you consider it desirable you should communicate with him and inform me.

No. 402 B.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 375.) *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1895.
Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you copies of a letter from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and of my reply,* respecting losses incurred by some Members of the Chamber during the recent disturbances at Trebizond.

I request that you will instruct Consul Longworth to keep you fully informed with regard to the proceedings of the Commission appointed to estimate the damage done to property, and to consider the best method of giving compensation, and that you will take, either directly or through Her Majesty's Consulate at Trebizond, any steps which may seem desirable in support of British claims.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Not printed.

beforehand, and not to leave everything to be arranged at the last moment, but he hopes that the danger against which it is desirable to provide is not imminent.

Count Goluchowski further informed me that the other Powers will be addressed by him in the same sense.

No. 401.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November* 13, 1895.

WITH reference to my preceding telegram No. 84 of this day's date, I have the honour to report, most confidentially, that orders will be given this afternoon for the dispatch to the Levant of an Austrian squadron consisting of four or five ships.

A binding agreement limiting the number of ships to be sent through the Dardanelles, on receipt of a summons from the Diplomatic Representatives at Constantinople, is considered by Count Goluchowski to be essential. If such an understanding be not arrived at, Russia might dispatch to the Golden Horn her entire Black Sea fleet if she found that England sent a proportionately greater number of ships than the Mediterranean Powers.

His Excellency trusts that a squadron will be sent to the Levant by Germany without loss of time.

No. 402.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 86. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November* 13, 1895.

WITH reference to the two preceding telegrams of this day's date, Nos. 84 and 85, which I had the honour to address to your Lordship, I beg to report that Count

Goluchowski informed me, in the strictest secrecy, that a revolution at Constantinople, in which the Sultan would disappear, would not be absolutely unacceptable, as it is difficult to see how he can be deposed by the Powers, and as the best, if not the only, chance of restoring tranquillity seems now to depend upon His Majesty's dethronement.

No. 403.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 111.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1895.

YESTERDAY the Austrian Ambassador called upon me by special appointment, and stated that the object of the interview was to put to me two questions which he had been instructed by his Government to ask. In the first place, he wished to know whether I thought that a revolutionary crisis in Constantinople was impending; and secondly, if so, to know what proposals I was prepared to make for meeting it.

I replied that, without expressing any very confident opinion, it was my impression that, for the moment, the danger of revolution had passed by, though it would probably recur. I did not, however, anticipate immediate danger. To the second request I mentioned to him the proposal of the Russian Ambassador that each Power should call up to the Bosphorus two "stationnaires" instead of one, which it is believed that, under the Treaties, they have the power to do. I said that it seemed to be the opinion of those most competent to judge that the Embassies with that protection would not be in serious peril.

His Excellency replied that there were large bodies of Christians outside the Embassies, some of them belonging to other European nations, some of them subjects of the Porte, who would be placed in very considerable jeopardy if the existing order in Constantinople was overthrown by any outburst of Mussulman fanaticism. What remedy had I to suggest for this danger? I asked him whether he contemplated acting through the Sultan, or in despite of the Sultan. He replied that, of course, his Govern-

ment only contemplated acting through the Sultan. My answer was that, while I did not, in any way, question the expediency of restricting European interference to that extent, at least, for the present, I was very apprehensive that no change for the better in the administration of Turkish affairs was likely to take place during the reign of the present Sultan. I thought, however, that, to some extent, his impracticability was due to his belief that the Powers would never consent to do without him; and that, if he once was convinced that it was not safe for him to rely on the continuance of this policy on their part, his attitude would change considerably. I said that the mere impression, if it ever gained ground, that so conservative a Government as Austria was prepared to act with the unanimous concurrence of the Powers, but without the assent of the Sultan, that assent would not then be difficult to obtain.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 404.

Tewfik Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(*Communicated November* 14.)

Constantinople, le 13 *Novembre*, 1895.

(Télégraphique.)

LES autorités Impériales de Mamouret-ul-Aziz, avisées qu'une rixe avait éclatée à Kessik entre Musulmans et Arméniens, à la suite des coups de revolvers tirés par ces derniers, y ont envoyé aussitôt une compagnie de réservistes qui y a établi l'ordre. Dans cette affaire deux Musulmans et deux Arméniens ont été blessés légèrement. Bagdji Oghlou Kirkor, provocateur de l'incident, a été arrêté.

Grâce aux mesures prises par les autorités locales l'ordre et la sécurité ont été assurés à Malatia.

Dans la nuit du 26 au 27 courant, les émeutiers Arméniens d'Arabkir ont mis le feu à une mosquée, à une medressé (école) et au bazar et provoqué ainsi un grand incendie qui a détruit plusieurs boutiques et un nombre de maisons appartenant tant aux Musulmans qu'aux Chrétiens. Ils ont en outre attaqué le quartier Musulman d'Ouloupinar et tué ses habitants.

Les mesures nécessaires sont adoptées par les autorités Impériales pour l'arrestation des agitateurs.

No. 405.

Tewfik Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(*Communicated November* 14.)

Constantinople, le 13 *Novembre*, 1895.

(Télégraphique.)

LE 27 courant, les émeutiers Arméniens d'Erzindjan ont tiré sur des Musulmans et attaqué l'hôtel du Gouvernement, le corps de garde, et d'autres endroits. Les forces militaires envoyées sur les lieux ont pu disperser les agitateurs et rétablir l'ordre et la sécurité.

Les révolutionnaires Arméniens d'Arabkir ayant attaqué le quartier Musulman d'Iknepinar une rixe eut lieu entre eux et les Musulmans. Il y a eu des tués de part et d'autre.

Un engagement a eu lieu aux environs du village de Saroy (Van) entre une bande de brigands Arméniens qui battait la campagne et les gendarmes. Les malfaiteurs s'étant enfuis et retirés dans le village de Bogazkessen, les gendarmes les ont poursuivis et sont parvenu à les disperser. Plusieurs gendarmes ont été tués et blessés.

Les émeutiers Arméniens de Sivas, après avoir enlevé clandestinement les marchandises se trouvant dans leurs boutiques les ont fermées et ont attaqué les Musulmans. Une rixe se produisit entre ceux-ci et les agresseurs.

Les autorités Impériales ont pris les mesures nécessaires pour rétablir l'ordre.

Les autorités d'Arabkir ont découvert dans les maisons de Tamgadji Oghlou Serkis et un autre Arménien des bombes à incendie qu'ils avaient fabriquées pour allumer des incendies et ainsi que des bombes à dynamite.

Les agitateurs Kirkor et Kevork, du village de Kemer (Sivas) qui avaient tiré des

No. 408*.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 14, 1·20 P.M.)

(No. 677.) *Péra, November* 14, 1895, 4·10 P.M.
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.*

AN official Notice in to-day's papers says there is no doubt that tranquillity will soon be restored in Anatolia, as a considerable number of soldiers have been called out, and the necessary instructions sent to the authorities. A second Notice states that the Commission formed to supervise the application of the reforms will commence its labours from to-day.

coups de feu, et dans les maisons desquels les autorités Impériales ont découvert des armes et des cartouches, ont été arrêtés.

Plus de 5,000 révolutionnaires Arméniens se sont réunis à Tchoukmerzen (Adana) et se préparent à commettre des agressions.

No. 406.

Tewfik Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(*Communicated November* 14.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 13 *Novembre*, 1895.

SA Majesté Impériale le Sultan a donné des ordres pour que toutes les personnes, tant Musulmanes que Chrétiennes, qui ont eu à souffrir durant ces dernières rixes survenues dans les provinces, soient nourries et logées aux frais de l'Etat. Des instructions à cet effet ont été envoyées par télégraphe aux Gouverneurs-Généraux.

No. 407.

Tewfik Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(*Communicated November* 14.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 14 *Novembre*, 1895.

LES révolutionnaires Arméniens de Sivas après avoir enlevé de leurs boutiques les marchandises qui s'y trouvaient, ont attaqué les Musulmans. Plusieurs d'entre eux ont tiré de leurs maisons des coups de feu dont un a atteint un soldat qui fut blessé grièvement. Des balles ont atteint la fenêtre de la chambre occupée par le Gouverneur-Général.

Ils ont, en outre, attaqué le village de Mandjilik, tué des Musulmans et commis des actes de pillage.

Les autorités d'Arabkir ont découvert quarante bombes que les agitateurs Arméniens avaient enfouies pour faire sauter les édifices publics spéciaux, tels que casernes, hôtels du Gouvernement, dépôts militaires.

L'incendie qui a éclaté dans la ville a été causé par l'explosion d'autres bombes à mèche allumée.

La population Musulmane d'Arabkir attaquée par les émeutiers Arméniens armés et équipés et au nombre de 1,500, vient d'adresser au Gouvernement Impérial un télégramme pour solliciter sa protection.

Les autorités Impériales ont pris toutes les mesures nécessaires grâce auxquelles l'ordre et la sécurité ont été rétablis sur ces dits points.

No. 408.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 676.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 14, 1895, 10·30 A.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 218 of yesterday, I have the honour to state that I do not consider that it would be of much use at the present moment to dispatch a ship to Alexandretta, as all the disturbances up till now have occurred in the interior. I will, however, consult Consul Barnham by telegraph.

No. 409.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 791.) *Constantinople, November* 11, 1895.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the translation of a message which was sent to me last night from the Sultan through His Imperial Majesty's First Secretary.

The Sultan also inquired if I could tell him where the Russian fleet was, and whether an alliance had been concluded between England and Austria. He had heard that an Austrian man-of-war had joined our fleet at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 409.

Message to Mr. Herbert by His Majesty the Sultan.

"HOW is it that after all my messages of friendship, and the expressions of my good intentions, I get no answer from Lord Salisbury?" (The First Secretary here told His Majesty that you had sent his message, but that, evidently, there had been no time for an answer.)

His Majesty's message continued:—

"I hope for assistance from England, and I repeat that England should be convinced of my earnest desire to carry out my promises. The reforms have been granted; there is no reason in the world to suppose that they will not be faithfully carried out. It is to my interest and that of this country that the reforms should be introduced, and naturally we look to our own interests in this respect. The execution of reforms, however, is dependent on the re-establishment of order, and they can only be put in force when quiet exists.

"The Armenians, by their intrigues and sedition, and by provoking disorders, have delayed, and are still delaying, the reforms. Directly Shakir Pasha got to Erzeroum, he began to enrol Christian gendarmes. This is a proof that I desired to set to work at once. Then the trouble began at Erzindjian, followed by that at Batbourt and Erzeroum, and I do not know if Shakir Pasha has been able to do anything more, but he began to work on the day of his arrival, and if he has been unable to continue it, it is only the troubles which have stopped him.

"To put an end to disorder I have had to call out at great sacrifice large numbers of troops with the ultimate object of executing the reforms as soon as possible, and I think I shall be able to complete them directly order is restored in less than two months. Thus I do not anticipate that much time will elapse before being able to get the reforms into working order.

"To further this end I am sending to-morrow two Feriks, Abdallah Pasha and Saad-ed-din Pasha, with some civil functionaires, the first to go to the Erzeroum district, the second to the Bitlis district, and their first efforts will be employed in restoring order by conciliatory means, if possible, and advice to all classes of the population. This is a still further proof of my good faith.

"Let then England help me by giving good advice to the Armenians, or even threatening them that nothing will be gained by their present conduct, and by telling them that, on the contrary, reforms cannot be carried out as long as they continue to agitate and create disorder.

"Why is it that England will not help me? I cannot understand it. Does Lord Salisbury not wish to help me? In spite of all my sincerest efforts I see that the English papers still abuse me. Can they not see that I am earnestly striving to put things straight? Cannot something be done to stop them? I expect England to give me great assistance."

No. 410.

Mr. Howard to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 397. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, November 13, 1895.*

BETWEEN 2 and 6 this afternoon M. Berthelot received forty of the Chefs de Missions; and, therefore, had naturally but little time to devote to each, especially as the Russian Ambassador took considerably more than his proper share.

I consequently only asked his Excellency the following questions: What instructions had been sent M. Cambon on the subject of the Russian proposal to send a second "stationnaire" to Constantinople? and whether the rumour in the press as to the intention of the French Government to strengthen their squadron already sent to the Levant was well founded?

M. Berthelot to my first question replied, as I have had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship, that the French Ambassador at Constantinople had been instructed to inform his colleagues that France was willing to hold a vessel in readiness to act as a second "stationnaire," provided that all the other Powers were unanimous in agreeing to do the same.

In answer to my second inquiry, his Excellency stated that the rumour I had mentioned was virtually correct, inasmuch as the French Government would send additional ships to the Levant should the situation there require such a step, but he added that it was to be hoped that the fleet of the Powers would burn coal and not powder.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

No. 411.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 15.)

(Secret.)
Sir, *Admiralty, November 14, 1895.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 12th instant, transmitting copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople reporting that the Representatives of the six Great Powers had agreed on the proposal of the Russian Ambassador to apply to their respective Governments to hold in readiness for dispatch to Constantinople a gun-boat or light-armed vessel to act as second "stationnaire," I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to the Marquess of Salisbury that a vessel can be dispatched from the Mediterranean Fleet for this service if Her Majesty's Government desire it, and that the Admiral in command has been requested to name the ship he would propose to employ.

I am to ask whether it would be necessary to withdraw the "Cockatrice" in that case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 412.

Tewfik Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(Communicated November 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 15 Novembre, 1895.*

UN certain nombre d'émeutiers Arméniens de Zéitoun, ayant à leur tête le Sergent de Gendarmerie Nazaret, ont attaqué et pillé le village Musulman de Bechmâsis aux environs de Zéitoun et incendié cinquante-sept maisons.

Les insurgés de Zéitoun ont fait aussi irruption dans le village Musulman de Kourtel, incendié toutes les maisons avec les effets qui s'y trouvaient, brûlé vif un habitant et blessé grièvement un autre.

Le nombre de Musulmans des deux sexes tués par ces rebelles à Téhoukour-Hissar est de quatre-vingts et celui de blessés de quinze. Le village est entièrement détruit.

No. 413.

Tewfik Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(Communicated November 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 15 Novembre, 1895.*

EN vue de mettre fin aux désordres surgis sur certains points en Anatolie et de sauvegarder complètement l'ordre et la tranquillité publique, le Gouvernement Impérial, entre autres mesures, a appelé sous les armes 128 bataillons de réserves, indépendamment des contingents des 4e et 5e Corps d'Armée Impériaux, et a adressé de nouvelles recommandations fermes et péremptoires aux Valis et Commandants pour que le calme et l'ordre soient promptement et définitivement assurés par l'application d'un traitement égal et juste envers tous les sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale sans distinction de race ni de religion. Il

n'y a pas de doute que, grâce à ces dispositions, l'apaisement des esprits ne soit sous peu obtenu partout.

En outre, le Conseiller d'État Samy Effendi, les Généraux de Division Saadeddin et Abdullah Pachas, Djemal Bey, membre de la Commission du personnel, et Ibrahim Edhem Bey et Hussein Ruchdi Effendi, Conseillers à la Cour de Cassation, ont été chargés d'appliquer les mesures administratives et militaires pour le maintien de la sécurité et de l'ordre publics. Ces fonctionnaires formeront deux corps dont l'un se rendra à Trébizonde, Gumuchkhané, Baïbourt, Erzeroum, Mouche, et Bitlis, et l'autre à Samsoun, Amassia, Tokat, Sivas, Malatia, Mamouret-ul-Aziz, Diarbékir. Ils sont partis hier par bateau spécial pour ces destinations.

La Commission chargée de veiller à l'application des réformes arrêtées pour les six vilayets a, de son côté, commencé dès aujourd'hui ses travaux et les dites réformes se trouvent déjà en cours d'exécution.

No. 414.

Tewfik Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(Communicated November 15.)

Constantinople, le 15 *Novembre,* 1895.

(Télégraphique.)

LES émeutiers Arméniens de Zéitoun et de Marach ont attaqué les villages de Fersakh et de Bitchli.

Ceux d'Azirlou et de Tchokuerzemenk ont saccagé Pias et d'autres villages Musulmans, tué un grand nombre de leurs habitants, mis le feu à plusieurs maisons. Des mesures ont été prises pour le rétablissement de l'ordre.

Le Vali de Sivas nous informe de son côté que grâce aux dispositions adoptées par les autorités Impériales les maraudeurs qui étaient venus au chef-lieu pour se livrer au pillage ont été arrêtés.

Nonobstant les fausses rumeurs répandues au sujet de la situation à Hadjin, la tranquillité n'y a point été troublée.

Le Vali d'Erzeroum télégraphie aussi que des Commissions spéciales instituées au chef-lieu du vilayet et à Passinler pour la découverte et la restitution à leurs propriétaires des objets enlevés pendant la dernière bagarre fonctionnent activement, et qu'un grand nombre de ces objets ont été restitués.

Le Maréchal Chakir Pacha informe que la Commission formée dans le même but à Khouns a déjà découvert et rendu à leurs propriétaires les objets qu'ils avaient perdus et que le calme et la tranquillité sont rétablis dans la ville.

No. 415.

Tewfik Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(Communicated November 15.)

Constantinople, le 15 *Novembre,* 1895.

(Télégraphique.)

LE Vicaire du Patriarcat Syrien et quelques Notables de sa communauté viennent d'envoyer de Kharpout à la Sublime Porte le télégramme suivant :—

"Que le Très-Haut daigne prolonger les jours précieux de notre auguste Souverain et accroître sa puissance! Depuis 600 ans que nous avons le bonheur de vivre sous la protection du Gouvernement Impérial, nous n'avons jamais été l'objet d'aucune injustice ni de la part des autorités ni de celle de la population Musulmane. Aujourd'hui encore nous n'avons qu'à nous louer de nos rapports avec nos compatriotes Musulmans et nous affirmons sous serment que notre unique désir est de conserver toujours notre nationalité Ottomane."

No. 410*.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 684.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 15, 1895.*

POLICE officers and Palace officials have lately been engaged in registering, in Pera, Stamboul, and the suburbs, houses inhabited by Armenians. The Armenians here consider this as the prelude to an attack on them, and are in a state of panic.

I hear that some of the Notables have held a meeting, and that a deputation will ask for the intervention of the Russian Ambassador, and implore him to prevent them from being massacred.

There can be no doubt that the state of panic among the Armenians is a source of danger.

No. 416.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 679.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 15, 1895, 11·30 A.M.*

IN spite of the official "Communiqué" in the newspapers which I reported to your Lordship in my telegram No. 677 of yesterday, the Commission of Control did not hold a sitting yesterday.

Notwithstanding the statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, there seem to be doubts as to Shefik Bey's resignation. I hear, however, that he is not well, and that he shows great reluctance to accept the Presidency of the Commission.

No. 417.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 680.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 15, 1895, 11·30 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 676, my opinion that ship is unnecessary at present is shared by Mr. Barnham.

No. 418.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 681.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 15, 1895.*

I RECEIVED a further message from the Sultan last night, stating that His Majesty has never hesitated to accept our advice, and that he is ready to do so now; that it is untrue, as is alleged, that His Majesty opposed the proposals made by the ex-Grand Vizier, Said Pasha, in regard to the reforms, but, on the contrary, the Porte, who refused to carry out His Majesty's orders, is to blame. Message also recapitulates measures which have been taken to restore order in the provinces, and expresses hope that they will be successful.

No. 419.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 683.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 15, 1895, 12·10 P.M.*

I HAVE through Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van received the following message from the Armenian Bishop there for communication to the Patriarch:—

"In answer to your telegram of congratulation on the introduction of the reforms, I beg to inform your Beatitude that the Kurds have suddenly fallen like wolves on the districts of Adeljevaz, Arjest, Khizan, Sparghird, Gargar, Shatlak, Khoshaf, Borgheri, Elbak, and Van, and plundered the Armenian villages. Many have been murdered, and more than ten thousand persons are scattered abroad without food and shelter. The state of things gets worse every day; if it continues our people will be forced to change their religion.

"I have sent six telegrams to your Beatitude and one to the Sultan and the Grand Vizier to the above effect, but have received no answer."

No. 420.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 685.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 15, 1895, 1·5 P.M.*

THE British Vice-Consul at Alexandretta reports serious disturbances in the district of Pias, and begs me to communicate the following message from the Armenian Vicar to the Patriarch :—

"According to a report dated yesterday from the priest of Chokmerzime, the Turks, three days ago, destroyed Odjakli, an Armenian village of 300 houses, and have burnt over 30 Armenian farms in the neighbourhood.

"Yesterday they marched to the village of Uzuli and destroyed it, and they have attacked the village of Chokmerzime. The number of killed and wounded on both sides is considerable, and over 7,000 have taken refuge at Chokmerzime. There are 200 regular Turkish soldiers there, but they do nothing to check the ferocity of the Mussulman population. If nothing is done to put a stop to the excesses of the Turks, the Christians will not stand it very long."

An American subject, resident at Chokmerzime, has telegraphed a similar report to his Consul at Alexandretta. I have telegraphed to Mr. Catoni to ask whether he considers the presence of a ship of war necessary.

The Porte has also received intelligence of disturbances in these places, but accuses the Christians of being the aggressors.

No. 421.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 686.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 15, 1895, 2·45 P.M.*

AMERICAN missionaries have sent following intelligence to-day to the United States' Minister here :—

At Guruu, 4,000 Armenians have been killed.

At Mardin, where there are numbers of Chaldean Christians, many villages have been burned and great distress prevails.

At Kharput, 500 to 800 Armenians have been killed, and eight out of twelve of the missionary buildings there have been burned and pillaged, but missionaries are safe.

Ten Mussulmans and 800 Armenians have been killed at Sivas, according to a report from the American Vice-Consul there.

No. 422.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 687.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 15, 1895, 6·50 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 669 of the 13th instant, proposal of Russian Ambassador has been approved by the Austrian, French, and Italian Governments. They have also designated ships, each having over 100 men.

I should be glad of your Lordship's instructions as soon as possible, as we meet to-morrow at 5 to decide whether the extra vessels shall be asked for at once or not.

No. 423.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 688. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 15, 1895, 7 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador informs me that, at an audience which he had with the Sultan to-day, he laid great stress on the absolute unanimity of the Powers at the present juncture, and that His Majesty appeared much disturbed thereat.

The Turkish Government have also been informed by their Representatives at Paris, Vienna, and Rome, that the Powers are in complete accord in regard to their Oriental policy.

No. 424.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 689.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 15, 1895.*

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush telegraphs me the following message from the missionaries at Bitlis for communication to the United States' Minister here :—

"We consider that our families must leave Bitlis for Van ; we beg that measures should be taken for our safe escort, and that, if possible, the British Vice-Consul at Van come to Bitlis for that purpose. It will be necessary, after our departure, to adopt strong measures for the protection of our property and of the Protestant community."

Mr. Hampson adds that the situation at Bitlis is still very critical, though the missionaries have now a military guard. He says that they wish him to go to Bitlis, but that he cannot well leave Mush in view of the critical position of events there.

I have, in reply, informed him that it is not advisable for him to leave Mush, and that, in consequence of representations made by the United States' Minister and myself, telegraphic instructions in the sense derived have been sent to the authorities at Bitlis.

I have also sent to Mr. Hampson the following message from the United States Minister :—

"Safe escort for Van demanded, and measures for protection of property and Protestants at Bitlis. Am informed that British Vice-Consul cannot go to Bitlis."

No. 425.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 691.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 15, 1895, 7·20 P.M.*

I AM informed by the French Ambassador that a man-of-war will be sent to the Syrian coast by the French Government.

No. 426.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 693.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 15, 1895, 7·50 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs as follows :—

"The Turks are encamped in force on the River Jehan, seven hours from Zeitoun. I have just received a Petition from Zeitoun, dated the 3rd November, stating that provisions there are running short, and calling on Her Majesty's Government to intervene and prevent hostilities."

At an interview with Minister for Foreign Affairs last Monday, I expressed the hope that the Government would treat the Zeitounlis with leniency if they capitulated, and, in the absence of any instructions from your Lordship, I hesitate to do more at present.

No. 427.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 694.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 15, 1895.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush telegraphs as follows:—

"Some Mussulmans attempted to start a massacre here this morning, but, thanks to the prompt action of the Mutessarif, who showed great personal courage and energy, the movement was suppressed. Some Mussulmans behaved very well in saving life, but others displayed the greatest ferocity; for instance, one of my servants saw a Softa run a helpless Armenian through the body, and afterwards drink his blood. Two Armenians were wounded before the Consulate. I hope, however, that the number of killed and wounded will be found to be under twenty. The Mutessarif and Mudir, with whom I had an interview this afternoon, are doing their utmost to prevent any increase of the panic in the towns and villages. This evening all is quiet here."

No. 428.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, November* 15, 1895, 7·5 P.M.

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's telegram No. 660, Secret, and to your Lordship's answer No. 217, both of the 12th instant, I was informed by Baron von Marschall to-day that His Majesty's ship "Moltke," which is now at Smyrna, is the only German ship available to be sent to the Levant.

No. 429.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 692.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 16, 1895, 11·45 A.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo has sent me the following telegram:—

"The town of Andrin has been burnt by the Zeitounlis. The Ferik informs me that he hopes that the Zeitounli trouble will be satisfactorily settled within ten days, as otherwise it will have become a most serious matter. I do not, however, know what means are being employed to secure so speedy a settlement.

"Meanwhile, the Ferik has ordered that no offensive measures shall be taken against the Zeitounlis, and if any military steps are absolutely necessary he will employ only regular troops, of whom there are three battalions with the expedition."

No. 430.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 697. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 16, 1895, 8·10 P.M.

PORTE has been informed by Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin that he has been told by the German Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Great Powers are losing patience in consequence of the situation in the Turkish provinces and in Constantinople, and that Turkish Government must be prepared for a joint naval demonstration.

In view, however, of the friendship existing between the Sultan and the Emperor, the German Government will not take part in it, but they advise His Majesty before it is too late to take energetic and immediate steps, both in the provinces and in the capital, to restore tranquillity.

No. 431*.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 699.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 16, 1895.

THE Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed the Russian and French Ambassadors and myself officially of the measures which the Sultan's Government has taken to prevent massacres in the provinces. The other Ambassadors, however, have had no reply to the identic representation. This is in consequence of an order from the Sultan, who wishes to ignore the union of the Six Powers. In these circumstances it was decided at a meeting to-day that the English, Russian, and French Dragomans should inform the Porte on Monday that we should not consider that we had received any reply to our identic representation until all six Representatives had received a similar official communication from the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 435*.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 221.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1895.

ACCORDING to a telegram received from the Admiral in Command of the Mediterranean Squadron, Her Majesty's ship "Barham" is held in readiness for service as second "stationnaire" at Constantinople. She is a third-class cruiser of 1,830 tons, and has a complement of 170 officers and men.

Do you apprehend that any objections will be raised on account of her size?

Do you propose that the "Cockatrice" should also remain at Constantinople?

No. 431.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 698.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 16, 1895, 10 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 687 of the 15th instant, it was agreed at meeting of the Representatives of the Six Powers to-day to postpone decision as to "stationnaires" until German Ambassador and myself received instructions.

I gather that there may be a difference of opinion at our next meeting as to the necessity for having extra vessels here at once. General impression at meeting to-day was that the situation had slightly improved.

No. 432.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 700.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 16, 1895, 10·35 A.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 219 of the 16th instant.

In view of arrival of "Cockatrice" here, Turkish Government, if we ask for a second "stationnaire," may object that we have two already, although, according to the Treaty, there is no limit as to number.

Shall I suggest exchange of "Imogene," which is of no use, for another vessel, or shall I simply ask for another "stationnaire"?

Until German Ambassador receives his instructions, no decision can be come to.

No. 433.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 16, 1895.

IT is announced that the Austro-Hungarian squadron proceeding to the Levant under the command of Rear-Admiral Seeman von Trauenwart will consist of the "Kaiserin Elisabeth" as flag-ship, the "Tegetthof," "Donau," and "Meteor;" the "Sebenico" is already at Smyrna.

No. 434.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 219.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1895.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 687 of yesterday, and I authorize you to agree to the Russian Ambassador's proposal relative to a second "stationnaire" for the Embassies, and to request the British Admiral to have a vessel in readiness. Instructions have been sent to him by the Admiralty.

The Sultan's Firmans to enable the ships to come to Constantinople should, in my opinion, be applied for as soon as possible.

No. 435.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 220.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1895, 3·40 P.M.

THE French Government having dispatched a ship of war to the coast of Syria, it is desirable that you should communicate with the Admiral commanding the Mediterranean Squadron, and request him to dispatch one of the vessels under his command to Alexandretta.

No. 436.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to the Marquess of Dufferin.**

(No. 152.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1895, 5 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government approve the proposal that Her Majesty's Representative at Constantinople should be authorized to summon a second "stationnaire," and they are of opinion that the Imperial Firmans to enable the ship to pass through the Dardanelles should be applied for and obtained as soon as possible.

You should make a communication in this sense to the Government to which you are accredited.

Mr. Herbert has been instructed accordingly.

No. 437.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(Separate.) *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1895.

Sir,

IN accordance with the recommendation made by the Representatives of the six Powers at Constantinople, I have authorized Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to call up a second "stationnaire," which will be at your Excellency's disposal.

In the event of the state of affairs in Turkey becoming so serious as to make it necessary, in your opinion and that of your colleagues, to take further measures for the protection of the interests committed to your charge, I request your Excellency to communicate with the Admiral in Command of the Mediterranean Squadron.

He will place at your disposal for employment in any manner on which the Ambassadors at Constantinople may determine, such vessels as they may consider to be necessary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 438.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Secret.) *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th instant, and to the telegraphic correspondence with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople since forwarded to you, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that upon the arrival of the gun-boat selected for service as second "stationnaire" at Constantinople, it may be necessary to withdraw Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," but that, in Lord Salisbury's opinion, this matter may best be left to be settled between Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople and the Admiral in Command of the Mediterranean Squadron.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 439.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 701.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 17, 1895, 11 A.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs that great uneasiness prevails there. A serious outbreak occurred at Aintab yesterday morning, and fighting is still proceeding there.

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* Also to Mr. Gosselin (No. 115), Mr. Goschen (No. 226), Sir Clare Ford (No. 65), and Sir F. Morton (No. 82).

No. 440

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 702.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 17, 1895.

MY telegram of yesterday, No. 692.

I have to-day informed Mr. Barnham by telegram to do all he can to persuade both the military and civil authorities to treat the Zeitounlis with leniency if they are ready to cease hostilities and submit.

No. 441.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 703.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 17, 1895, 12·40 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 221 of the 16th instant, dispatch of Her Majesty's ship "Barham" here would, I fear, frighten my colleagues as she is much too large to meet M. de Nélidow's proposal. I do not know the size of the Russian boat, but Austrian Government are sending a torpedo gun-boat, 57 metres in length, of 800 tons, and with a crew of 130 men.

The Italians are sending a gun-boat and the French a torpedo-catcher, neither being quite so large as the Austrian.

Admiral has been informed by telegraph.

No. 442.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 704. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 17, 1895, 1·45 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 692 and 702 of the 16th and 17th instant respectively, the Vali of Aleppo, according to secret information which I have just received, has reported confidentially to the Sultan, in reply to a telegram from His Majesty, that orders have been given to completely exterminate the Armenians at Marash, Hadjin, and Zeitoun.

The Sultan's request for our good offices with the Armenians, contained in my telegram No. 695, gives us an opening for intervention, whether the above news be true or not, but it must be borne in mind that the Armenians in those districts are undoubtedly in a state of open rebellion, and according to the Turks, have burned villages and attacked regular troops.

No. 443.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 705.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 17, 1895, 1·50 P.M.

UNITED STATES' Minister here has received a telegram from American Vice-Consul at Sivas reporting that massacres have begun at Amassia and also at Marsovan.

No. 444.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 706.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 17, 1895, 2 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 696 of the 16th instant, Turkish newspapers publish reassuring articles this morning in regard to public tranquillity and the execution of reforms.

These articles are evidently inspired by the Turkish Government.

No. 445.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, November* 17, 1895.

I HAVE carried out the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 65 of the 16th instant, and have been informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he entirely agrees with your Lordship, and considers that the necessary Firmans for the second "stationnaires" should be asked and obtained as speedily as possible. Baron Blanc has received a telegram from the Italian Ambassador at Constantinople, whom his Excellency had authorized to make the demand for the Italian ship "Archimede," reporting that it has been unanimously agreed among the Ambassadors to await the notification of the dispatch of second "stationnaires" before making a simultaneous demand, as some of the Ambassadors have not yet received such notification from their respective Governments.

According to information he has received, Baron Blanc considers it doubtful whether the dispatch of the Russian and French "stationnaires" could take place so early, and would be glad to know if, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the duty incumbent on each Power to protect its own subjects would justify a demand for each Firman being made at the moment when its second "stationnaire" has sailed.

I have been asked by Baron Blanc to let him know confidentially what your Lordship's views on this point may be.

No. 446.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November* 17, 1895.

COUNT NIGRA has been ordered to return to his post, and is expected in Vienna to-night. His Excellency went to Italy about ten days ago on leave of absence.

No. 447.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November* 17, 1895.

THE message which your Lordship transmitted to Count Goluchowski, through the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in London, accepting his views, has evidently afforded his Excellency the greatest satisfaction.

I am informed that the Italian Government fully concur.

The answer given by Prince Lobanoff before he had seen the Emperor is also of a satisfactory nature.

I am informed that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in Paris believes that the French Government entirely agree, but he will not see the Minister for Foreign Affairs till to-morrow.

No. 444*.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 707.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 17, 1895.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush telegraphed as follows yesterday:—

"No. 13. All is quiet to-day. Yesterday there were six deaths, and the wounded are about forty in number, all Armenians. There is on all sides nothing but praise for the conduct of the Mutessarif.

"I think the effect would be excellent if some signal mark of the approval of the Turkish Government could be sent to him. There have been several arrests of Mussulmans, and the authorities are making a strict investigation."

I will make the suggestion contained in the second paragraph of the above.

Count Goluchowski's point of view is absolutely accepted by Germany, but it is not certain that a squadron will be sent by her to Turkish waters.

Count Goluchowski considers that ships of war should only be sent by the Powers signatory of the Berlin Treaty, and that small Powers, such as Greece, should not send any. The advice given by the Italian Government to Greece, to the effect that the latter should not make any movement to take part in a display of naval force, meets with Count Goluchowski's approval.

No. 448.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, November* 17, 1895, 5·30 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 115 of yesterday, upon which I have acted.

The Imperial Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs begs me to thank your Lordship for the communication contained therein, and to state that there are no German ships which would be available for this purpose.

Baron von Marschall is afraid that the Sultan will delay the issue of Firmans as long as he can.

No. 449.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, November* 17, 1895, 5·30 P.M.

I WAS informed this morning by Baron von Marschall that the Imperial Government have accepted the Austrian proposal for joint action of fleets in principle, should the necessity arise at Constantinople for such action.

As explained in my foregoing telegram, His Majesty's ship "Moltke," now at Smyrna, is the only vessel available to represent the German flag.

I informed his Excellency that your Lordship had not communicated with me on the subject of the proposal made by the Austrian Government.

No. 450.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 112. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November* 17, 1895.

I HAVE received, on good authority, the information that the Ministry of Finance has allowed a considerable supplementary credit for the more rapid mobilization of the Russian Mediterranean and Black Sea Squadrons.

The latter is reported to be ready to go to sea in twenty-four hours.

The "Rurik" and "Dimitri Donskoi" left Cronstadt on the 10th instant, and are said to be bound for the Mediterranean, where they will join the "Groziashchi."

Orders have also been sent to Cronstadt to expedite the fitting out of the "Peter-Veliki" and two other ships, all of which are to proceed to Reval before the ice comes, in order to be ready to sail in the early spring for the Mediterranean, if required. It is also reported that the Black Sea Squadron is in readiness to go to sea in twenty-four hours.

In conversation yesterday with Prince Lobanoff his Excellency told me that he had heard that the British Mediterranean Squadron was about to be reinforced by fourteen of Her Majesty's ships that had recently been dispatched there. Considering how large the squadron in question already was, this report, he said, had caused him some surprise.

No. 451.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 772.)
Constantinople, November 8, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum, reporting on the uneasiness prevailing throughout his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 451.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 21, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th instant on the subject of the critical state of affairs in this town and vilayet, I have the honour to report that I have received information from Van, Mush, and Kharput, showing that the same uneasiness exists in those parts, principally in consequence of the recent disturbances at Constantinople and elsewhere.

I inclose copy of Mr. Vice-Consul Hallward's despatch, in which he alludes to the danger of an outbreak should the delay in the introduction of the long-expected reforms be prolonged.

Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson stated on the 6th instant that, as telegraphed to your Excellency, there was considerable uneasiness in Mush, rumours of the events in Constantinople giving rise to fears of disorders there, but that the town was being carefully patrolled.

I send copy of his despatch of the 16th instant reporting the state of feeling at the time.

At Kharput it is shown, by the accompanying extract from a private letter, that the situation is much the same, as already mentioned in my despatch of the 13th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 451.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Cumberbatch.

(Confidential.)
Van, October 15, 1895.

Sir,

FROM a conversation which I had yesterday with the Vali, I gathered distinctly that he had no instructions to deal effectively with the Kurds; and, in fact, none of the criminals who have so long been the plague of this vilayet have been brought to justice, and robbery and crime continue almost unchecked.

As his Excellency remarked, it is useless to talk about reform unless the Kurds are brought under control, and quite unnecessary to send Shakir Pasha to do this. Were the necessary authority given to the Valis, the thing could be done at once. The fact that this step is not taken shows, I fear, that the authorities in Constantinople are determined to allow the present state of things to continue.

There is, on the other hand, a very decided and wide-spread feeling among the Armenians that this state of things must not be allowed to continue, but that a change of some sort must be wrought at any price. It is a common thing to hear said by ignorant peasants that immediate death would be preferable to the present slow system of extermination, and I have no doubt that this idea is being fostered among them

There is far more general sympathy with revolutionary ideas among all classes of the population than formerly; as, though bad government has existed here from time immemorial, it is only within the last year or two that the Armenians have become convinced that the Turks are aiming at their extermination.

I do not wish to exaggerate the importance of these sentiments, as I am by no means convinced that the Armenians have sufficient courage or devotion to a common cause to set on foot anything like an active general movement against the Government. But if the solution of this question is delayed much longer, and the Armenians lose hope of their legitimate demands being satisfied through the intervention of the Powers, there will be considerable danger of serious disturbances arising in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 451.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Mush, October 16, 1895.

Sir,

I AM glad to be able to report that perfect tranquillity continues to exist in this town and neighbourhood, and, as far as I can learn, throughout the vilayet. In spite of the rumours of disturbances at Constantinople, Trebizond, Sivas, &c., and the consequent tension of public feeling, which is undoubtedly great, not the smallest outbreak has so far occurred.

This is much to the credit of the Mutessarif, who is taking every precaution in the way of patrols, &c. It is an anxious moment, but I hope that we may escape here without trouble.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 451.

Extract from Private Letter from Kharput, dated October 7, 1895.

THE anxiety of the Christians over the reported distribution of arms and ammunition has deepened; scarcely any one doubts the truth of the rumour. The shopkeepers in the town, nearly all of them, decided not to open their shops on Saturday (5th October) last, because of the report that an uprising was to occur on that day, but some of the more intelligent men, with great difficulty, prevented the closing so as not to rouse the Turks.

A Protestant woman, who goes from this part of the town to the other to give lessons, has been advised by a friendly Turkish woman not to pursue her labour for the present.

No. 452.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 773.)
Constantinople, November 8, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum respecting the assassination of two Armenian informers at Van and Mush.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 452.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 21, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant on the subject of the assassination of certain Armenian informers, I have the honour to report that Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush announces the murder of a priest, Parsekh by name, in that town on the 6th instant.

Mr. Hampson says that this man was a notorious spy and agent of the authorities, and was deservedly hated by the Armenians.

Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van also reports the stabbing to death in that town, on the 7th instant, of Ohannes Derbogossian.

Mr. Hallward states that he was a clever man, who no doubt used his abilities chiefly to his own advantage, and possibly to the detriment of his co-religionists.

In both instances Armenian revolutionary agents are credited with the crime, though no evidence had yet been forthcoming to that effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 453.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 774.)

Constantinople, November 8, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum reporting the satisfactory progress of the relief work at Sasun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 453.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 22, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a further report of Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, together with a letter from Mr. Cole to the Constantinople Committee, on the subject of relief operations in Sasun.

Mr. Hampson says that much still remains to be done to adequately provide for the destitute Armenians against the coming winter, and he lays stress on the necessity of the dispatch at once of any further funds that may be available.

The missionaries charged with the work wish to have their gratitude conveyed to the Marquess of Salisbury for his Lordship's kind appreciation of their labours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 453.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Mush, October 16, 1895.

Sir,

I HEAR good accounts of the way in which the relief work in Sasun is progressing. A considerable number of houses in the villages are completed, though I fear that the present cold and wet weather must cause much suffering and sickness among those for whom no shelter is as yet provided. It is much to be regretted that the military authorities have not lent some tents, as suggested in my despatch of the 29th ultimo.

Necessary clothing, grain, and cattle are also being collected and sent up to the villages as fast as the means and the money will permit, and the 3,000*l.* already sent from England were nearly expended. To-day I have received Sir P. Currie's telegram informing me that a further sum of 1,000*l.* is at our disposal, and as the Armenian Committee has also now expressed the intention of confiding considerable sums to the missionaries, we can now go ahead boldly. Much, however, still remains to be done to make anything like adequate provision for the destitute against the coming winter, and the time is now very short. The more rapidly funds can reach us now the more hope there is of obtaining a really satisfactory result.

Mr. Cole and Dr. Reynolds wish me to express the pleasure they feel at the Marquess of Salisbury's kind appreciation of their work, conveyed to me in Sir Philip Currie's despatch of the 30th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

P.S.—I inclose an interesting report from Mr. Cole on his recent visit to the Talori district. I would call special attention to the fact that the Kurdish Aghas are again demanding tribute from the villages. Prompt steps are needed to stop this evil, and to keep Kurd Sasun in order. (*Vide* my despatch of yesterday.)

C. S. H.

No. 454.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 775.)

Constantinople, November 8, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 528 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum respecting the recent disturbances at Erzinghian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 454.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 21, 1895.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to telegraph to your Excellency yesterday that disturbances had occurred on the 21st instant at Erzinghian, during which about sixty Armenians and a dozen Turks had been killed, besides many on both sides wounded, and that the official report was to the effect that the troubles arose from the shooting of a Mollah. I also added that, though the pillaging of Armenian villages by both Kurdish and Laz bands continued very actively all round, things in this town remained quiet.

No detailed account has yet been received from Erzinghian, but it appears that the Mollah, or rather Imam, was shot in the market-place by an Armenian, who was then and there set upon and beaten to death by the Turks.

This incident naturally led to reprisals on both sides, some Armenians firing from their houses on the Turks.

The number of wounded on both sides is not yet known, but must be considerable.

The conflict was stopped and further bloodshed prevented, for the present at least, by the interference of the soldiers under the orders of Zekki Pasha, Commander-in-chief of the 4th Army Corps.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 455.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 776.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, November 8, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 740 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Acting Consul at Erzeroum giving further details respecting the mission of Shakir Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 455.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir,
Erzeroum, October 24, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Shakir Pasha is still at Erzeroum, and that no date is yet fixed for his departure.

Whether his detention here is due to superior instructions, in order that he may assist the Vali in re-establishing order in the vilayet amongst the Kurds and Lazes, or that he may receive fresh instructions necessitated by the latest turn of events, I am unable to discover.

He has been very busy writing reports on the subject of the various Government Departments of this vilayet, as mentioned in my above-named despatch, including one in connection with the collection of taxes.

In most, if not all, of his schemes he has evidently been guided by the project of the 11th May of the three Powers, though he claims them to be the results of his own inquiries and deliberations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 456.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 777. Confidential.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, November 8, 1895.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 632 of to-day's date, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora reporting the arrest of the Protestant pastor at Marsovan named Knajian

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 456.

Acting Consul Fontana to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir,
Angora, November 2, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that the Rev. Mugherditch Knajian, pastor of the Protestant church at Marsovan, was suddenly arrested in that town on the 10th ultimo without receiving any intimation as to the nature of the charge brought against him, and was hurried off during the night to Yuzgat; he was prevented, moreover, from communicating with his friends before leaving, and even from providing himself with money and clothes for the journey.

The Vali, to whom I spoke upon the subject to-day, informed me that Knajian was suspected of being the follower, and, in fact, the successor of the Armenian

patriot Tomaian, who is believed to be at present in England; that the Marsovan authorities further complained of his unbridled tongue and general restlessness, and that it had consequently been decided to banish him to his native town of Orfa, in the Vilayet of Aleppo.

Memdouh Pasha assured me, however, that he had telegraphed to the Vali of Sivas requesting that the pastor might be well cared for upon his arrival there, and added that he would be set at liberty as soon as he reached Orfa.

The Rev. Knajian is considered by the Armenians in this city to have done good work in Marsovan by using every effort to bring to light covert official abuses and acts of oppression committed in that town; and he is said to have journeyed to Constantinople last year with the express purpose of presenting either to Her Majesty's Embassy or to the Porte a petition signed by many of his fellow-townsmen, protesting against the wholesale imprisonment of Armenians, and the ill-treatment they suffered at the hands of the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 457.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 780.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, November 8, 1895.

AS I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my telegram No. 615 of the 5th instant, the Sultan sent me on that day a message containing, amongst other things, a promise that the reforms should be published in the press of the capital "to-morrow." As they did not appear in the papers of either the 6th or 7th, I sent Mr. Block yesterday to the Palace to express to the First Secretary my astonishment and regret at His Majesty's failure to carry out his promises.

In reply, I received the following message: His Majesty had intended to make the publication, but he now hesitated from fear that the result would be an increase of jealousy on the part of his Moslem subjects, who would perhaps visit their resentment on the Christians; in fact, His Majesty had decided that this was not the moment. Even were they published, what good would it do? A résumé had been published in the press, and the Armenians should thus know that reforms would be given them. What advantage would it be to the Armenian peasant to know that such and such an Article of the law would be carried out? People could not go about with the "Destour" open searching for various Articles of the law.

The Sultan complained that, although the Powers were satisfied with the reforms, the Patriarch had never expressed a word of thanks or gratitude.

His Majesty desired me to telegraph to your Lordship that deeds and not words were, in his opinion, what was necessary at the moment. He had already said he would carry out the reforms, and he intended loyally to do so, but the first thing was to put an end to this deplorable bloodshed in the provinces, provoked by the Armenians. This he was striving to do by sending the strongest instructions, holding the authorities responsible, and enjoining upon them the necessity of first using conciliatory measures before allowing the troops to use their arms. He trusted your Lordship would instruct the Consuls to urge the Armenians to return to their vocations, and not provoke disorders and arouse the Turks, and that the Embassy would also urge the Patriarch to use his influence. With regard to the reforms being communicated in detail to the Patriarch officially, the same objections held good, as the Patriarch would publish them in the Armenian press.

The First Secretary suggested a way out of the difficulty, viz., that the Patriarch should be called to the Ministry of Public Worship, and the reforms read to him, but this does not seem very practicable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 458.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 781.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 10, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond reporting further on the situation in that town.

I have, &c
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 458.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Herbert.

Trebizond, November 2, 1895.

Sir,

SINCE the outbreak of the 8th ultimo, there have been at times false alarms in town, but no disturbances.

Public confidence in the situation is, however, by no means entertained. Apart from other causes, the authorities still threaten the Armenians with another massacre if they fail to discover and deliver over to them shortly the suspects Gasparoglou and Stephanoglou. They, moreover, persist in the make-belief that there was an insurrectionary movement at Trebizond, unable though they are to name a single Turk as killed or wounded by Armenians on the occasion of the outbreak. Such dogged obduracy and perversity can only be possible in a shameless and despotic Government, supported by a people who had shown themselves to be murderers and robbers of the helpless and innocent.

All but fifty of the Armenian prisoners have been released. It is questionable, however, whether most of them were not better off in gaol, for boycotted as they are by even Greeks out of fear of the Turks, they are virtually outcasts, bereft of their belongings, reduced to beggary, and expelled from their hired houses. In the villages I hear distress is greater, for their houses were sacked and burnt, and their cattle and grain stolen. No reliable information has, however, reached me from the near, much less from the distant, localities.

Not one Turk has as yet been arrested for having taken part in the riot. What does this mean? Are they to consider themselves beyond the reach of the law? If so it is only fair to allow the Armenians wholesale emigration.

As in the past so in the present, I am doing my utmost to inspire in the governing classes a more conciliatory spirit and a greater sense of justice. My efforts have unfortunately met with very poor success. Every move of mine, in fact, to befriend the oppressed and to mitigate their sufferings is regarded with suspicion. Humanitarian sentiments, it would seem, are only too readily misconstrued into political machinations. I must of necessity therefore be prudent. I must advance gradually and cautiously, as any injudicious action on my part may precipitate matters and aggravate the situation. In other words, the moment is not propitious for any open interference in behalf of the persecuted people. The animosity created by false reports of England's policy in the Anatolian question, named unhappily the Armenian question, is at present too acute. We must therefore wait patiently for a reversion of feelings before venturing to urge more energetically the display of greater equity in this God-forsaken country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 459.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 782.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 10, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum containing a further Report on the work of the Sasun Relief Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 459.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October* 28, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush on the subject of the relief work at Sasun.

Mr. Hampson acknowledges the receipt of your Excellency's telegrams announcing the further substantial funds available for the distribution of relief, and calls attention to the necessity of protecting the Sasun villages against Kurdish attacks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 459.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Mush, October* 23, 1895.

IN forwarding the Report of the missionaries on the relief work for the past week, I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Sir P. Currie's telegram of the 21st instant informing me that, in addition to the first 2,000*l.*, a further sum of 3,000*l.* has been remitted to the Constantinople Committee from England; as also his Excellency's telegram of yesterday, stating that the English Relief Committee were prepared to guarantee a further sum of 5,000*l.*, making a total of 10,000*l.* subscribed in England for this object.

This good news practically secures a successful result for the relief work, and will, we hope, save the lives of the surviving sufferers by the events of last year in Sasun and Talori, and gradually restore them to their former position. Shortness of time before winter is now the chief obstacle to be met.

The essential question which remains is that of adequate protection against the Kurds, more especially in Talori and the surrounding villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 460.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 783.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 10, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum respecting the attitude of Mussulmans and Armenians towards each other, as evinced in the recent massacres.

The importance of Mr. Cumberbatch's remarks is rather weakened by the fact that his estimate of the number of killed differs so greatly from that of Mr. Hampson, who must have better information on this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 460.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 28, 1895.

Sir,

IN answer to your Excellency's telegram of the 27th instant, I had the honour to telegraph that the object of the Armenian revolutionists who have come into this region from the capital by way of Trebizond and from Russia, was to provoke disturbances wherever it was possible, but I added that such was not the attitude of the Armenians as a body.

I referred to the doings at Trebizond and Erzinghian as illustrations, and I mentioned that, according to Turkish official versions, troubles had occurred at Bitlis, where a Mussulman congregation had been attacked by Armenians in a mosque; and at Baiburt, where some unoffending Turks had been fired upon from Armenian houses. In both these towns reprisals took place, but no details have been received.

I also stated that instructions had been received for calling out the reserves in such localities where they might be needed; but that up to the present Erzinghian was the only place where they were being partially mobilized.

I telegraphed to your Excellency to-day that order had been restored at Baiburt, but not before over 160 Armenians and about twelve Mussulmans, of which two were soldiers, had been killed.

I now hear that over 130 Armenians and some twenty Turks were killed at Bitlis.

The thirty-three villages reported as having been plundered are situated in the Terdjan district, not Dersim, but the Kurds who committed these extensive depredations belong to the Tchanakli tribe of Koosidjan, in the Dersim.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 460.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 29, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch of yesterday's date on the subject of the recent conflicts in Erzinghian, Baiburt, and Bitlis, I have the honour to add the following remarks.

If my information is correct, as I have reason to believe it to be, though mainly derived from Turkish official sources, and unless it is disproved by impartial inquiries, the attacks on Mussulmans at the four above-named places, which led to serious disturbances, are to be attributed to the numerous Armenian revolutionary agents belonging to the "Hintchak" and "Tashnaktzagan" Societies, whose object appears to be to create troubles wherever they can, with a view to forcing a foreign military intervention, or at least an effective control over the execution of the proposed reforms.

It cannot, however, be denied that the feelings of the Armenian population as a whole are embittered to the highest degree both against the Mussulmans and the Turkish Government, and the frequent occurrence of these wholesale massacres, not to mention the doings of Kurds and Lazes, have brought them to the verge of despair, but they are nevertheless too cowed and too fully alive to their inferiority in numbers to court a conflict with the enemy, and they therefore cordially disapprove of the reckless actions of the revolutionists, for which they are made to suffer.

Besides this, the authorities have for some time past been disarming them by degrees whilst permitting the Turks to retain their weapons, and even in some places helping to provide them.

The Turks, on the other hand, authorities as well as the classes, do not discriminate between the professional agitators and the peaceable Armenians, but look upon them, one and all, as responsible for the recent attacks on their co-religionists, and therefore as dangerous rebels who must be put down.

Whether their systematic extermination, as put forward by Armenians, has really been determined upon or not in high quarters, the state of feeling in Mussulman circles has reached such a pitch that the smallest provocation is only needed to set the fanatical Turkish mob on to the Armenians in those places that have so far escaped.

Matters are now in such an unsettled state that it will need the most determined and energetic action on the part of the Government to re-establish tranquillity and restore confidence, and until this is done it is very doubtful whether the proposed measures of reform can be taken in hand with any chance of success.

Speedy punishment meted out to the real culprits on both sides, as well as to the worst characters among the Kurdish and Laz Chiefs would put a stop to the present unsatisfactory and dangerous state of things, but if the Government pursue the line followed on former occasions by imprisoning and condemning only Armenians, the disaffection of the latter can but be increased, promises of reforms notwithstanding.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 461.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 784.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 10, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul in Trebizond respecting the state of affairs in the Sivas Vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 461.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Trebizond, October* 30, 1895.

DR. JEWETT reports as follows in his letter to me, dated Sivas, the 23rd instant:—

"Up to last Sunday threats of a massacre here were quite common, and caused considerable uneasiness. Extra precautions to prevent disturbances were taken by the Vali, and now the danger seems to be past.

"When it became generally known on Sunday that I had received a telegram from Mr. Terrell announcing that the scheme of reforms had been accepted, the general alarm subsided, and the Armenians began to rejoice. It appears quite certain that all of this talk of a massacre was instigated by the revolutionists, who have been planning and trying to start some disorder here. However, the Turks became persuaded that they were to go for the Christians, and they were prepared to do their duty.

"Three hundred Christians of Azizieh, hearing that there were serious disorders here, started for Sivas one day last week ostensibly to assist the Government, but really, I suppose, for the sake of plunder. They were turned back by a company of zaptiehs.

"I think the majority of Turks are pleased that the Armenian question is apparently settled, and that there are to be reforms. Of course, the corrupt officials are not pleased. Some Turks who want reforms are angry that they should come from the cries of the Armenians.

"The Armenian Archbishop received the following telegram, dated the 21st October, from his representative at Divrik:—

"'About 100 Dersim brigands, after having entirely ruined the Armenian Cariehs of Hassova and Armondan, and killed many people, they attacked yesterday the Armenian Cariehs of Zommara and Puigian, killed many people, and destroyed their property. It is certain they will attack others, and we are all in great danger. Some zaptiehs sent from here to check these brigands are reported to have been killed.'"

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 462.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 787.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 10, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a question has arisen lately as to the right of British Consuls, who are charged with American interests, to protect naturalized American subjects of Ottoman origin.

From the correspondence herewith inclosed, it appears that the Turkish authorities entirely deny any such right.

I have also received a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, asking whether, during the existence of martial law, a Consul may extend protection to a naturalized British subject or an American citizen of Ottoman origin.

As under ordinary circumstances Her Majesty's Consular officers do not extend protection to naturalized British subjects of Ottoman origin when they return to Turkey, I have the honour to request your Lordship's instructions as to the position that should be taken up by British Consuls in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 462.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 22, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Graves' despatches of the 8th and 14th July and 17th September and his telegram of the 25th September, as well as your Excellency's telegrams of the 9th and 12th July, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the United States' Minister, a translation of a letter received by me from the Vali of Erzeroum, in reply to one addressed to his predecessor by Mr. Graves last July, refusing to recognize the claims of Aroutine Simonian to the protection of the United States.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 462.

Note Verbale.

(Translation.)

AROUTINE SIMONIAN, mentioned in your letter of the 13th July last, who declares himself to be American subject, is a native of the Mamouret-el-Aziz Vilayet, and is an Ottoman subject. In 1303 (1887), when he was about 17 years of age, he went to America, remained there six years, and became an American subject; he afterwards returned.

When a Turkish subject wishes to become the subject of a foreign country, it is absolutely necessary for him to obtain the permission of the Ottoman Government; this permission has not been given to Aroutine.

If any one who is by birth a Turk wishes to become a foreign subject according to the Regulations of the foreign country, his papers must be examined and confirmed, and this can only be done for those who have become foreign subjects prior to the Ottoman Regulation published in 1285 (19th January, 1869).

Therefore the aforesaid Aroutine's claim to foreign protection cannot be accepted, as has been stated in the letter of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, dated the 7th (19th) September, 1311 (1895), and decided by the "Idaré Medjliss" of the vilayet and by the "Terdjamé Odassi" (Dragoman's office).

Dated Rebi-ul-Akhir 28, 1311, and Tishrini-Evvel 5, 1311 (October 17, 1895).
(Signed) RAOUF PASHA,
Vali of Erzeroum Vilayet.

No. 463.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 789.)
My Lord, *Pera, November* 10, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report that Raouf Bey, Governor of Dedeaghatch, has been appointed Governor-General of the Vilayet of Mamuret-ul-Aziz (Kharput).

Raouf Bey speaks no European language, and has had a purely Turkish education, nevertheless, at Dedeaghatch, where the population is almost entirely Christian, his Government gave complete satisfaction, and he proved himself to be an intelligent, hard-working, and honest official.

Unfortunately, there is an old personal feud between him and Abdurrahman Pasha, the late Vali of Adrianople, who, in his new office of Minister of Justice and Public Worship, will probably be able to considerably hamper Raouf Bey's good intentions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 464.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 792.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 13, 1895.

WITH reference to Sir P. Currie's No. 646 of the 3rd October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah, reporting on the further measures that have been taken with a view to the punishment of the perpetrators of the Jeddah outrage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 464.

Acting Consul Alban to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Jeddah, October* 28, 1895.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 14th instant, and with reference to my telegrams of the 14th, 23rd, and 25th instant, I have the honour to state that on the 20th instant Sheikh Dakhil Allah and another Sheikh of the Hamrany sub-division of the Harb tribe, accompanied by a third Sheikh of the sub-tribe of the Beni Jabir, returned to Mecca, bringing a reply from the alleged murderers to the Grand Shereef. In their reply Hamed-bin-Nefaa and his companions rejected the proposal of the Grand Shereef to give three Shereefs, Aoon-bin-Nassir, Fitu, and Zeid Ibn Fawaz (cousins of the Grand Shereef, and perhaps the most influential among the Shereefs of the Hedjaz), as hostages for the safety of Hamed-bin-Nefaa, Abdullah Ibn Massaood, and Ali Zeidi, if these latter would come to Mecca. In place of the three Shereefs, the alleged murderers demanded as hostages Mohammed Ali Effendi Abdul Wahid, Dervish-el-Habbash, and Saleh Bawazir. The first-named is the Grand Shereef's Arabic Secretary, while the two latter are protégés of the Grand Shereef, who control the hiring of camels by travellers for the journey from Mecca to Medina, and are detested by the Harb tribe, which supplies the camels for this journey, and which has frequently suffered from the exactions committed by them for their own and the Grand Shereef's benefit.

I am informed, and this explanation seems to be the most probable, that the principal reason which decided the alleged murderers to refuse the three Shereefs as hostages was that the latter, owing to their great importance, are practically inviolable in view of the fact that in the event of any violence being offered to Hamed-bin-Nefaa and his two companions at Mecca it would be impossible for their friends to retaliate on the hostages without bringing down on the Harb tribe the lasting vengeance of the numerous tribes of Shereefs, and of the other Bedouin tribes connected with them. On the other hand, the three hostages demanded by the alleged murderers, although

protected by the Grand Shereef, are not Bedouins, and have therefore no tribe to carry on a vendetta on their behalf.

I am informed that the Grand Shereef appeared much annoyed at this reply, and gave no answer at the time, but remained in his harem for two days, declining to receive any visitors, even his trusted agent, Omar Nassif, who arrived in Mecca from Jeddah on the 21st instant, being refused admission. His Highness subsequently rejected the demand of the alleged murderers, and again sent envoys to them, renewing his offer for giving the Shereefs as hostages. The envoys were expected to return yesterday, but I have not yet heard the result of their mission. The Grand Shereef appears to have endeavoured to conceal the reply of the murderers from the Vali, and when the latter, who had heard of it, asked him why he did not give the hostages demanded, he denied that such a demand had been made.

In the meantime, preparations are being made for an expedition. About 2,000 troops in all, chiefly recruits, have arrived here recently, most of whom have proceeded to Mecca and Medina. A detachment of seasoned troops is also expected to arrive here shortly from the Yemen, and a large store of provisions is being collected in Mecca.

A few days ago the Grand Shereef requested the Dragoman of this Consulate, Said Effendi Bajseir, who was paying a short visit to Mecca, to inform me that he was making every effort to apprehend the assassins, and that, if they could not be induced to come to Mecca, he would himself go out to arrest them. I have but little confidence in these protestations on the part of His Highness, and, as I have already informed your Excellency, I fear that the present negotiations will prove a mere waste of time, as the alleged murderers are not likely to surrender without previously exacting such guarantees for their safety as will frustrate any attempt at treachery, and will render a genuine trial impossible. Meanwhile, they have been allowed ample time for maturing their plans for escape, and it is already stated in Mecca that, unless they can be captured by diplomatic means, they will never be arrested, as they will take to the mountains, where their capture by a military expedition is extremely improbable.

With reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo, it may interest your Excellency to know that the Grand Shereef recently forwarded 2,000*l.* to the Crédit Lyonnais at Alexandria, probably for the same object as that for which the Vali is believed to have forwarded on behalf of the Shereef a somewhat larger sum a short time ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 465.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 795.) *Constantinople, November* 14, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Cumberbatch, respecting the recent disturbances at Erzeroum. Mr. Cumberbatch considers it clearly proved that Turks were the aggressors and that the soldiers took a part in the massacre and pillaging.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 465.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

(Private.) *Erzeroum, November* 1, 1895.

My dear Mr. Herbert,

OWING to my not having an assistant it is absolutely impossible for me to do more than send you a few private lines by to-morrow's weekly mail.

The situation on the eve of the events of the 30th ultimo is described in my No. 252, and I have only to add at present that, though the authorities assert that certain Armenians set matters ablaze by firing on the gendarmes at the kiousk, as mentioned in my second telegram of yesterday, which I think was not sent off till to-day, this is far from proved; on the contrary, a European witness on the spot says

No. 464*.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 793. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 13, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a Memorandum by Mr. Eliot on some information respecting the present position of the Armenian Patriarch.

M. de Nélidoff spoke to me yesterday about the incident of the pastoral letter, which had also been communicated to him by the Patriarch's Secretary, and said he thought the Patriarch had acted quite rightly, and that even the Minister of Police admitted the force of his Beatitude's argument.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 464*.

Memorandum by Mr. Eliot.

(Confidential.)

THE Secretary of the Armenian Patriarch informed me this morning that his Beatitude had, in consequence of the representations made to him by the Sublime Porte and this Embassy, prepared a pastoral letter exhorting his people to keep quiet, which was to have been made in the churches of the capital last Sunday.

The letters, however, which we received from Erzeroum gave so terrible a picture of the atrocities which had been perpetrated there and in the surrounding districts that the Patriarch sent to the Minister of Police to say that under the circumstances his pastoral would be a mockery and would provoke excitement among the Armenians, and he must therefore withdraw it.

The Secretary added that the Patriarch was now very unpopular with a large section of Armenians. He did not think it true, as had been rumoured in England, that there was any risk of assassination, but feared that a hostile demonstration might be made before the Patriarchate or in the Church of Koum Kapou. He thought that unless things improved the Patriarch's resignation was only a question of time, perhaps of days.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

November 11, 1895.

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that the signal came from the Turkish side, and a few Armenians ran into the kiousk for safety but were killed, and these are the men whom it is sought to show were the cause of the outbreak.

There is not the least doubt that the Turkish mob was perfectly ready and needed no signal, unless it was from their own side.

The worst feature in the whole business is the part taken by the soldiers who joined in the pillaging and massacring before the eyes of their officers, who would not and perhaps could not stop them.

Of this there is plenty of evidence.

Shakir Pasha and a few of his superior officers did their best and a small portion of the booty has been recovered, but the men got entirely out of their control and made common cause with their co-religionists.

The Armenians in the shops and streets were, with a very few exceptions, unarmed. If they had intended an organized attack on the Turks, which it would be absurd to admit, they would have all been armed.

The firing on their part was in self-defence, though *after* the massacres in the bazaars there was a certain amount of shots fired at the troops in various other parts of the town, one of the hot corners being quite near the Consulate where 200 or 300 helpless fugitives would have been shot down had it not been for my interference. But, after all, these details are of no use now except as records of another bloody chapter in Turkish history, and can serve no end as the fact remains that the Turks, soldiers as well as civilians, have merely executed a long contemplated design.

The villages all round have suffered similarly, if not worse, as we can see two burning in the plain, and we shall have a sad record of plundering and massacres from all quarters.

Where it will all end no one can tell, as it is spreading from all directions.

I mentioned in my telegram of the 30th ultimo that the military authorities displayed much activity in restraining the mob! This was sent off when I had proofs of their surrounding the bazaars where the worst carnage and pillaging was taking place, and preventing their spreading into our quarter of the town, but after going over the ground early the next morning I saw that, with the exception of one part of a street, not a single shop had been left untouched, which shows that the butchery went on till no Armenian was left and the plundering till all the shops were emptied.

This afternoon I visited, in company with one of Shakir Pasha's Aides-de-camp, and a doctor, the houses in that quarter of the town where soldiers principally committed great excesses, killing and plundering houses, the surviving inmates of which all declared that soldiers were their assailants.

We shall have the usual court-martial as has already been instituted at Erzinghian and Baiburt, and a lot of Armenians will be hanged and imprisoned as revolutionsts, but not a single Turk!

More dead bodies have been brought into the cemetery all day, and the 210 I saw yesterday have gone up to over 300.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 466.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 801.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 14, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 772 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul, inclosing a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson on the critical state of affairs at Mush. I propose to protest against the distribution of arms by the local authorities among the Mussulmans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 466.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, October 28, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st instant I have the honour to transmit herewith a further despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, on the critical situation at that place, and on the advice given by him to the Armenians to refrain from any demonstration which might be contemplated on the receipt of the news of the acceptance of the reforms by the Sultan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 466.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Mush, October 22, 1895.

Sir,

THE situation here became very critical towards the end of last week. The feelings of both Mussulmans and Christians were much excited at the rumours of serious disorders at Constantinople and elsewhere; and the position was made worse by the ill-advised action of the authorities who, apparently fearing attacks from the Armenians, issued arms to all Musulmans who could deposit £ T. 7. The latter availed themselves largely of this offer, with the result that the smallest street quarrel might have had the most serious consequences.

On Friday night (the 18th instant) I received a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador, announcing that the Sultan had accepted the proposed reforms. This news only added to the gravity of the situation, as the slightest indiscretion or unwise demonstration of joy on the part of the Armenians would inevitably have precipitated matters. Immediately on receiving the telegram I informed the chief men of the Armenian community of the news, requesting them to disseminate it very gradually, and to recommend the greatest discretion, so that when it became generally known all untoward events might be avoided.

I am glad to report that, so far, all has gone well, and as public feeling is becoming less strained, I hope that we shall escape all disorders. This is to the credit of both the authorities and the Christian population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 467.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 333.)

Vienna, November 14, 1895.

My Lord,

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI informed me yesterday that he had, twenty-four hours previously, telegraphed to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassadors at the capitals of the Great Powers, instructing them to communicate to the respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs his views as to the urgency of arriving at a clear understanding as to joint action towards Turkey.

There were three points upon which it seemed to him most important to agree: the measures to be taken at once for the protection of the foreign Embassies and Colonies at Constantinople, the open display of European unison, and the decision as to concerted employment of force in the event of a serious revolutionary outbreak in the Turkish capital.

For the first, the adoption of M. de Nélidoff's proposal for the summons of a second "stationnaire" for each Power would be sufficient provision. For the second, the dispatch of a squadron into the Levant by France, Italy, Germany, and Austria would be patent evidence of a European agreement; and each of those Powers was taking steps to be so represented, the orders for the departure of the Austro-Hungarian Squadron being given by telegraph that afternoon. For the third, it seemed to his Excellency urgent that the Powers should come to a decision.

Count Goluchowski had just received from Count Deym a telegram, reporting your Lordship's reply to his application; and I understood him to say that you had not given any specific opinion on this last point. His Excellency, however, considered its discussion by no means premature, saying that, although he hoped that extreme peril was not imminent, it would be imprudent to delay to provide against it until the last moment, when the horror inspired by possible massacres on a large scale would prevent calm consideration.

As the principle on which the Great Powers act involves the exclusion of individual interests, it would, in Count Goluchowski's opinion, be essential that, in the event of the employment of foreign ships of war becoming necessary, each Power should be represented by a certain number of ships only, to be limited by previous agreement. Otherwise, said his Excellency, the preponderance of British ships in the Levant might induce Russia to make a still more ponderous display of force from the Black Sea.

As regards the right of passage through the Dardanelles, Count Goluchowski considers that Europe, which has sanctioned the existing arrangement, and constituted the Sultan guardian of the Straits and adjacent waters in the interests of peace, has an absolute right, when those interests are threatened, to impose upon His Imperial Majesty the suspension of that arrangement, and exact from him free admission of their naval forces.

Count Goluchowski pointed out further that, as any local outbreak on the Turkish coasts of the Levant, as, for instance, at the important seaports of Smyrna or Beyrout, would justify foreign Powers in sending ships of war for the protection of their countrymen, it would be absurd that, in the event of a supreme emergency of a similar kind, an exception should be made in favour of the capital, and that Constantinople should not be accessible to foreign squadrons.

Should events render such a step necessary as the concentration of a combined naval force in the waters of the Bosphorus, the Embassies should of course be authorized to issue the summons. It would be for the Diplomatic Representatives on the spot to decide upon the necessity and opportuneness of such action, and there should be no question of referring home for instructions, and thus risking the extension of a calamity which might be minimized by resolute promptitude.

As, however, the presence of a combined force representing the great navies of Europe might in the meantime arouse the susceptibilities of the Mussulmans, and precipitate the very catastrophe which it is desirable to avert, Count Goluchowski stated that it would be better that the various squadrons now on their way should not unite in one anchorage, but station themselves separately at convenient points accessible by telegraph from Constantinople.

There was a question which had occurred to him which might give trouble, but the preliminary solution of which he feared might not be feasible, that, namely, of the precedence of the officers in supreme command of the ships to be detached for the special purpose of protecting Constantinople. He hoped that mutual jealousies and rivalries might not cause friction between the Commanders, but he could not help feeling that there might be danger in this quarter.

Count Goluchowski asked me to report at once to your Lordship briefly by telegraph, and in detail by writing, all that he had said to me, which I undertook to do at once, although I presumed that you would have already been placed in complete possession of his Excellency's views by Count Deym.

With regard to the possibility of friction between the Naval Commanders, I said that I imagined that, even if their own good sense and discretion did not suffice to avert such a state of feeling, there must be well-recognized rules of conduct to be observed in such contingencies as that contemplated, which would reduce to a minimum the risk of any serious trouble resulting from individual rivalries.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 468.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 269.) *Berlin, November 16, 1895.*

My Lord,

AT my interview with Baron von Marschall yesterday I asked his Excellency whether he had received any recent news from Constantinople.

Baron von Marschall replied that no improvement in the state of things was visible in any part of the Turkish Empire, and that he had two days ago received a telegram from Baron von Saurma stating that all the Ambassadors had agreed to recommend their respective Governments to send each a second "stationnaire" to Constantinople to afford additional protection in case of an outbreak.

His Excellency said that personally he did not think that this proposal would have much practical effect, but that the Imperial Government had no objection whatever to make to the suggestion; as far as Germany is concerned, the only available ship for service in the Levant is His Majesty's ship "Moltke," which is already at Smyrna; but he believed that both Italy and Austria-Hungary intended to send strong squadrons to the Levant.

Last night's papers announced that the Austrian squadron under orders for the Levant consists of the "Empress Elizabeth," "Tegetthof," "Donau," and "Meteor," under the command of Rear-Admiral Seemann, and that besides these vessels the "Sebenico" had already arrived at Smyrna, and the "Taurus" at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 469.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 18.)

Admiralty, November 18, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting "stationnaires" at Constantinople, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit the accompanying decypher of a telegram, dated the 17th instant, from the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station, from which it appears that the gun-boat "Dryad" is the only other ship besides the "Barham" available for second "stationnaire" at Constantinople.

I am to observe that the "Dryad's "Navy List" tonnage is 1,070 and her complement 120, but this seems to be the nearest approach to the desired conditions; and I am to request you will move the Marquess of Salisbury to cause their Lordships to be informed whether the "Dryad" will do.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 469.

Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour to Admiralty.

Salonica, November 17, 1895.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram received from Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople:—

"Fear that 'Barham' is much too large to sound here. Austrians have selected torpedo gun-boat 57 metres long, 800 tons, 130 men. French will send torpedo-catcher, Italians gun-boat, both trifle smaller than Austrian.

"Have you nothing about the size Austrian? Am informed that 'Hebe' or 'Skipjack' are about the necessary size."

Have informed him "Barham" specially ordered by Admiralty, and that I have telegraphed to you "Dryad" only other ship available.

No. 470.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 709.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 18, 1895, 10·45 A.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 220 of the 16th instant, I have received a telegram from Admiral Seymour stating that the "Arethusa" will be sent to Alexandretta, and that she ought to arrive there by Wednesday.

The United States' cruiser "San Francisco" is also being sent there by the American Government, who have already a man-of-war on the Syrian coast.

No. 471.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 710.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 18, 1895, 10·45 A.M.*

IN reply to an inquiry which I addressed to him yesterday, Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs as follows:—

"The Vali is such a fanatic that it is quite possible that he should have suggested to the Sultan the destruction of the Armenians at a distance from Aleppo. Fear is often expressed here lest the Vali should give orders for a Mussulman rising without the Ferik knowing anything about it.

"I asked the latter what he thought about this last week, and his reply was that the Vali was wicked enough, but had not the necessary courage to take this step.

"I shall take the first opportunity of speaking to the Ferik about the treatment of the Zeitounlis in the event of their submission, as instructed by you, and I may perhaps be able to ascertain whether he is cognizant of anything extraordinary."

No. 472.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 711.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 18, 1895.*

MR. HAMPSON telegraphs that the village of Ishkensor has been completely pillaged by the Kurds of Guendj, under Suleiman, and everything that has been distributed there by the Relief Committee has been carried off.

No. 473.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 712.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 18, 1895.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum:—

"According to the official returns, 200 Armenians were killed at Diarbekir, 80 at Kharput, and 250 at Arabkir. At the last-named place a small cannon and a few bombs were found in the possession of the Armenians and 70 Turks were killed, while in the other two places only a few Turks lost their lives. Shakir Pasha has put a stop to the Turkish raids in the district of Khinis, and has returned here.

"All the reserves in the vilayet are being called out."

Mr. Cumberbatch adds that if Her Majesty's Embassy kept him informed of any disturbances that occur or are anticipated in the six vilayets he could communicate with Shakir Pasha, and so secure prompt measures being taken for their suppression.

No. 474.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 713.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 18, 1895, 12·20 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 703 of the 17th instant, I learn from Admiral Seymour that the only other ship available is the "Dryad." I think she would do, as, although slightly larger than the "Austria," she has a smaller crew.

No. 475.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 714.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 18, 1895, 7 P.M.

MY telegram No. 704 of yesterday.

Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica telegraphs that Zihni Pasha, the newly-appointed Vali of Aleppo, leaves Salonica for Aleppo this evening. He will proceed in a Government steamer viâ Smyrna, at which port one battalion will be embarked for the garrison at Aleppo.

No. 476.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 715.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 18, 1895, 7 P.M.

RUSSIAN gun-boat at Trebizond has gone to Samsoun owing to disturbances having broken out there.

No. 477.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 90. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November* 18, 1895.

I HAVE just been informed, confidentially, that all idea of the passage of the Dardanelles by other foreign ships of war is objected to by Russia, and that she only agrees to the proposal as to a second "stationnaire."

The objections to the proposed arrangement is founded on the Treaty of Paris by the Russian Government.

No. 478.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 222.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1895, 10·30 P.M.

I HAVE received your telegrams Nos. 693, 702, and 704 of the 16th and 17th instant respectively relative to the position of the Armenians of Zeitun, and the reported issue of orders for their wholesale destruction.

Her Majesty's Government earnestly hope that in the event of the Zeitounlis surrendering they will be treated with clemency. If, in the present state of feeling in this country and in Europe, the Turkish troops are guilty of any massacres or acts of unnecessary violence, an effect will be produced entailing consequences for which Her Majesty's Government could not answer.

You should convey messages in this sense to the Sultan and to the Grand Vizier.

In case it should be maintained that punishment of those who are responsible for acts of violence is necessary, you may state that they should only be punished on sufficient evidence after a fair trial.

No. 479.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 223.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1895, 10·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 700 of the 17th instant, I think that the Powers who intend to apply for Firmans for the passage of second "stationnaires" should do so in terms as nearly as possible identical, and that the applications should be presented simultaneously.

In the event of the Porte raising any objection on the ground that there are already two vessels attached to the British Embassy, you may state that Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" is detailed for service at the mouth of the Danube, and that her stay, therefore, at Constantinople is only temporary. You may add that by Treaty no limit is fixed to the number of vessels, but that it is intended, in order to pursue exactly the same course as the other Powers, that either she or Her Majesty's ship "Imogene" should leave as soon as the other vessel arrives.

You should then communicate with the Admiral in command of the Mediterranean Squadron with a view to settle which is the most convenient of these two courses.

No. 480.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 81. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1895, 11·30 P.M.

IN my immediately preceding telegram I repeated to you a telegram from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, No. 697 of the 16th instant, reporting a communication made to the Porte by the Turkish Representative at Berlin respecting the attitude of Germany.

You may communicate this information in strict confidence to Count Goluchowski, stating that it has reached Her Majesty's Government indirectly, and not indicating its origin.

No. 481.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1895, 9·30 P.M.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 44 of the 17th instant relative to Baron Blanc's inquiries as to the date when the Imperial Firmans for second "stationnaires" should be applied for at Constantinople.

In reply, you may tell his Excellency that, in my opinion, it would be desirable that the Representatives of the Powers should apply simultaneously for the Firmans to the Sultan independently of the time of the departure of the ships for Constantinople, or of their arrival at the Straits.

As far as I am aware, there is no rule which prevents such a request being brought forward until the vessel has arrived, and, in any case, I think that on this occasion the sooner the application is made the better.

It should, as far as possible, be left to the Ambassadors at Constantinople to settle the details of procedure.

No. 482.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 227.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1895, 11 P.M.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 112, Confidential, of yesterday, reporting that Prince Lobanoff had expressed his surprise at a report which had reached him that fourteen more vessels had been dispatched to reinforce the British Mediterranean Squadron.

I should wish you to inform his Excellency that there is absolutely no foundation for the report. Two second-class cruisers only are being dispatched to take the place of ships which have been ordered to join the British Squadron in Chinese waters.

No. 483.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 186.) *Rome, November 16, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a report which I have received from Colonel Needham, Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy, respecting the dispatch of Italian vessels of war to the Eastern Mediterranean.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 483.

Colonel Needham to Sir Clare Ford.

Rome, November 16, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of your Excellency, that at an interview with Admiral Morin, Minister of Marine, this day, I was informed that the movement of a portion of the Italian fleet to Eastern waters has no political signification beyond the natural wish of the Italian Government to act in concert with the other Powers for the protection of their subjects, in view of the disturbed condition of affairs at Constantinople.

The squadron under orders forms the 1st Division, or one-half of the Italian fleet, and consists of six vessels, under the command of Admiral Accinni. Their probable destination is Smyrna, but different orders may be given if circumstances render them necessary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES NEEDHAM, *Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 484.

Tewfik Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(Communicated November 19.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 17 Novembre, 1895.*

LES émeutiers Arméniens de Hasnimensour ayant tué deux Musulmans, une rixe est survenue entre eux et les Musulmans. Il y a eu des tués et des blessés de part et d'autre. Grâce aux mesures prises par les autorités Impériales l'ordre a été rétabli.

Les Arméniens rebelles de Marsovan et d'Amassia, après avoir fermé leurs boutiques, se sont réunis dans l'église et les khans, d'où ils tirent sur les Musulmans.

No. 485.

Tewfik Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(Communicated November 19.)

Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 17 Novembre, 1895.*

LES insurgés Arméniens de Zéitoun (de Fernès) et de Kemban, au nombre de plus de 800, ont attaqué le district d'Enderin, incendié le local du Gouvernement et les maisons appartenant aux Musulmans, et capturé celles des familles Musulmanes qui n'ont pu s'enfuir.

Les émeutiers ont fait une nouvelle incursion dans le village de Kurtler à Marach, et incendié dix maisons ainsi que les effets qui s'y trouvaient.

No. 486.

Tewfik Pasha to Rustem Pasha.—(Communicated November 19.)

Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 17 Novembre, 1895.*

VOICI le résumé de deux lettres envoyées par l'Évêque Arménien d'Alep à celui d'Ourfa, par l'intermédiaire d'un Arménien déguisé en Arabe, et saisi par les autorités de cette dernière ville, et qui prouvent d'une façon incontestable l'existence d'une entente parfaite entre les révolutionnaires Arméniens des différents centres de l'Asie-Mineure:—

"Envoyez de la poudre aux émeutiers de Zéitoun pour les mettre à même de résister aux autorités Impériales, et procurez-nous une certaine quantité de salpêtre pour fabrication de la poudre.

"Baroudja, de Zéitoun, formera une armée.

"Nous nous sommes rapprochés des jours où des événements sanglants auront lieu.

"Les Arméniens de Marach sont prêts à combattre et le désirent vivement. Ils demandent des armes et des munitions et comptent prêter leur assistance aux autres rebelles."

Ces informations ont été portées à la connaissance de tous les Comités.

No. 487.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 19.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, November 19, 1895.*

IN reply to your letter of this day's date, expressing the request of the Secretary of State that a telegram should be sent at once to the Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, instructing him to place the "Dryad" at the disposal of Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople as second "stationnaire," I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will inform the Marquess of Salisbury that the following telegram has this day been received, in cypher, from Sir Michael Culme-Seymour, viz.:—

"Referring to your telegram No. 112, I have informed the British Chargé d'Affaires that the 'Dryad' will be held in readiness instead of ships previously named."

Telegram No. 112, from this Office to the Commander-in-chief, was as follows:—

"Arrangement about 'Barham' is cancelled, as the ship is too large—800 tons is now considered limit of size. Make arrangements with Chargé d'Affaires, and report."

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 488.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 717.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 19, 1895, 10·55 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 703 of the 17th instant, other Powers are asking for Firmans to-day. Please telegraph whether the "Dryad" is the vessel selected.

No. 489.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 718.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 19, 1895, 11·30 P.M.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 787 of the 10th instant respecting the right of British Consuls to protect Armenians naturalized as British or American subjects, I have now received a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, stating that the court-martial there has given him two days to decide whether he will protect them or not, and begging me to instruct him by telegram as to what course he should adopt.

No. 490.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 719.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 19, 1895, 12·15 P.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs as follows:—

"I am informed by the Ferik that the Zeitounlis are continuing their attacks on Mussulman villages, and he will, therefore, within three or four days, have to order the troops to advance.

"I wish the Porte could be induced to order a suspension of hostilities pending the consideration of the terms of surrender, as, though the Ferik says that the Zeitounlis will surrender immediately and that no excesses will be permitted, I cannot help thinking that there will be inevitable slaughter. Last night the disturbances at Aintab came to an end."

No. 491.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 720.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 19, 1895, 12·15 P.M.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout:—

"Owing to the absence of our Consul at Damascus, I went there on the 14th and stayed three days.

"The native Christians and the European residents are in a state of great alarm. The Mahommedans have been led to believe that the English have caused the present troubles in Syria. They accuse the Druses of having tortured and killed women and children, and they vow vengeance against them.

"The Druses who are collected in the Sija have sued for peace, but they are not likely to accept the hard conditions imposed by the authorities.

"The Lebanon district is quiet, and I have warned the Druses there to keep aloof from the present disturbances."

No. 492.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 721. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 19, 1895, 1·40 P.M.

ACCORDING to information received by the Porte from Tiflis, the Russian forces on the Turkish frontier have been increased by 17,000 men.

No. 493.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 723.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 19, 1895, 10·5 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 222.

Sultan has sent following reply to your Lordship's message:—

The Turkish Government cannot make the first advances after the manner in which the Zeitounlis are known to have acted. The Military Commandants in all parts of the Empire have already received orders not to touch any one who does not resist the authorities. His Majesty will give orders to the troops and guns which are ready at Marash not to move for two days. If on their arrival at Zeitoun the rebels consent to submit, hand over the authors of the outrages and deliver up their arms, nothing will be done to them.

Sultan again requests your Lordship to make a public declaration that the reforms will be carried out by His Majesty without delay in accordance with His Majesty's repeated assurances contained in previous messages, and an answer from your Lordship is pressed for.

A rumour that the "stationnaires" are to be doubled has reached His Majesty. Sultan hopes your Lordship will not take this step, as it might excite public feeling and prevent the tranquillity which is necessary to enable him to carry out the reforms.

His Majesty also urges that your Lordship should strongly advise the Armenians through the Patriarch to remain quiet, and not to make any fresh troubles.

No. 494.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 724.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 19, 1895, 10·10 P.M.

MY telegram No. 723 of to-day.

I have telegraphed to Mr. Barnham repeating portion of Sultan's message relating to the Zeitounlis, and instructing him to see what he can do in conjunction with the Ferik. I have warned him at the same time not to make himself in any way responsible for the promises which either side may give.

No. 495.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 91. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November* 19, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I communicated to the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your telegram of yesterday No. 83, Secret, but made no allusion to the source from which the information was derived.

I am informed by his Excellency that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Berlin describes the Emperor's language to him as entirely satisfactory and loyal, and that that used by the German Ambassador at Constantinople to the Sultan is reported by Baron Calice as being downright and straightforward.

Consequently, his Excellency does not believe that a message such as that reported can have been sent by the German Government.

In a conversation with me last night the German Ambassador insisted to me that the co-operation of his Government in the dispatch to the Levant of foreign squadrons is only prevented by want of ships. I do not think that this is really believed by Count Goluchowski, and I could not readily admit it to be the case.

No. 496.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 92. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 19, 1895.*

WITH reference to the telegram addressed by me to your Lordship No. 90 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that I have reason to know that Count Goluchowski is greatly disappointed, and I can see that he is much disconcerted, by Russia's rejection of his proposal as to the passage by ships of war of the Dardanelles, in spite of his Excellency's efforts to make the best of it.

The divulgation to a Roman Telegraph Agency of the news in question has rendered his Excellency's feelings resentful.

No. 497.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 19, 1895.*

I AM informed by the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires that he had a discussion yesterday with Prince Lobanoff respecting the proposal as to combined action on the part of the Powers that had been made by the Austrian Government.

Although his Excellency considered this proposal unnecessary, and likely to cause needless alarm at Constantinople, he was prepared to agree to it.

He considered that it would be most inopportune to hold a demonstration of the combined squadrons near the Dardanelles. This, he thought, would be likely to weaken the Sultan's authority, and to give too much encouragement to the Armenians; but he saw no objection to the various squadrons cruising as usual in Levant waters.

On the other hand, he considered that the forcing of the Dardanelles would be an infraction of Treaties, and he was therefore absolutely opposed to this idea. He said that no circumstances would be likely to arise which could possibly justify the Powers in adopting such a course, and he maintained this conviction during a long discussion.

No. 498.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 19, 1895.*

I HAVE spoken to Prince Lobanoff on the subject of your Lordship's telegram No. 226.

He has instructed M. de Nélidoff to apply at once for the necessary Firman for a second "Stationnaire."

No. 499.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 224.)
(Telegraphic.) C. *Foreign Office, November 19, 1895, 1·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to the inquiry contained in your telegram No. 71 of to-day, instructions have been sent to the Admiral in command of the Mediterranean Squadron to place Her Majesty's ship "Dryad" at the disposal of Her Majesty's Embassy.

No. 500.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 19, 1895, 1·25 P.M.*

THE Austrian Government are of opinion that the Powers only who signed the Treaty of Berlin should join in the naval measures for the protection of European interests at Constantinople and in other parts of the Ottoman Empire, and that lesser Powers, such as Greece should take no part in them. The Italian Government have, I understand, given advice in this sense to Greece.

If consulted, you may express the same opinion, and if two or three of your colleagues should wish it, you may join in a representation on the subject to the Greek Government.

No. 501.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 19, 1895.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a telegram has been received from Mr. Herbert, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, reporting that the Representatives of the other Great Powers intend to apply to-day for Firmans granting passage through the Dardanelles of the vessels selected for service as second "stationnaires" to the Embassies.

Mr. Herbert stated in his telegram No. 713 of yesterday's date, a copy of which was communicated to you, that Her Majesty's ship "Dryad" would be suitable for the purpose; and Lord Salisbury requests that a telegram may be sent at once to the Admiral, instructing him to place that vessel at Mr. Herbert's disposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 502.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 134.)
My Lord, *Athens, November 15, 1895.*

NONE of the foreign Representatives here appear to have been informed by M. Skouzès of his intention to represent to the Powers the gravity of the situation at Constantinople, neither did M. Delyanni, when questioned by one my colleagues subsequently, appear to think that any official appeal had been made by his Government to the Powers on the subject; indeed, the Greek Prime Minister seemed to be more optimistic and to consider that there seemed a lull in the bad news and a good hope that things may calm down.

I do not think that M. Skouzès, to judge by his language, indulges in such hopes; indeed, he seems to anticipate the deposition of the Sultan, of whom nearly all the leading men of the State are thoroughly wearied. Even the army, he learns, is not so perfectly loyal as it was; and, though the Albanians and the great mass of the army are faithful still, public opinion appears to have been at length aroused in the distracted capital, and that public opinion is so unfavourable to the Sultan that a dynastic catastrophe seems probable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 503.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 270.) *Berlin, November 18, 1895.*

My Lord,

IN compliance with the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram of the 16th instant, I called on Baron von Marschall yesterday, and informed his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government agreed to the proposal that Mr. Herbert should be empowered to summon a second "stationnaire" to Constantinople, and that the sooner the Firmans were applied for and granted the better; adding that instructions in this sense had already been sent to Her Majesty's Embassy at the Porte.

Baron von Marschall, in begging me to thank your Lordship for this communication, said that Germany had no ship of the "stationnaire" class available for the purpose; that, personally (as he had stated to me two days ago), he did not think the proposal would be of much practical use, and that the Sultan would probably do all in his power to delay granting the Firmans for the passage of the additional "stationnaire" through the Straits for as long a time as possible.

His Excellency then asked me whether I had heard anything of Count Goluchowski's proposal for combined action in certain eventualities on the part of the fleets of the Great Powers. I replied that I had seen the proposal mentioned in German newspapers, but had heard nothing from your Lordship on the subject.

Baron von Marschall said that the Imperial Government had accepted in principle the Austro-Hungarian proposal as to joint action of the fleets in case of an outbreak in Constantinople itself; but that the only ship which could represent Germany was His Majesty's ship "Moltke," now at Smyrna.

It would take, said his Excellency, from three to four weeks to get a second ship ready at Kiel; and no orders had as yet been sent to put another German cruiser in commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 504.

Tewfik Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated by Musurus Bey, November 20.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 20 Novembre, 1895.*

TELEGRAMME adressé au Maréchal du 1er Corps d'Armée et aux Commandants Militaires d'Alep, Bitlis, Adana, Trébizonde, Diarbékir, Sivas, Mamouret-ul-Aziz, et autres parties de la Turquie d'Asie, en date du 5 (17) Novembre, 1895:—

"La volonté formelle de notre auguste Maître étant que l'on veille plus que jamais et d'une façon tout à fait spéciale au maintien de la tranquillité du pays, de façon à prévenir absolument tout acte, tel que: incendie, menée séditieuse, effusion de sang, ou attaque de la part d'une classe de la population contre l'autre ou contre les Consulats et sujets étrangers, des instructions en conséquence ont été déjà transmises aux fonctionnaires de l'Administration Civile. Conformément à un Iradé Impérial, les autorités Impériales militaires doivent se concerter avec les Valis et les Mutessarifs pour tâcher d'assurer la tranquillité publique et veiller à ce que les officiers et soldats de l'armée agissent dans les limites des règlements militaires en s'abstenant soigneusement de se porter à des actes pouvant provoquer des plaintes. Tout manquement à ces ordres, toute négligence et tout procédé contraire à la discipline entraîneront une grave responsabilité."

No. 505.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 725.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 20, 1895, 2·40 P.M.*

SULTAN sent last night to my colleagues similar message to that contained in my telegram No. 723 of yesterday in regard to the demand for extra "stationnaires." We have all replied that, in our opinion, it is in His Majesty's interest not to make

objections, and to grant the necessary Firmans at once, in order to prevent stronger measures being resorted to, and that, moreover, we are convinced that the pressure of extra vessels here will have a tranquillizing effect.

I fear, however, that His Majesty will not give way without a struggle.

Following are the names of the vessel designated by the other Powers:—

Austrian, "Selenico;" French, "Faucon;" Italian, "Archimede;" Russian, "Donetz."

Austrian, Italian, and Russian Ambassadors and myself have applied for Firmans to-day. French Ambassador, who is awaiting some communication from his Admiral, will apply to-morrow, and German Ambassador as soon as he receives instructions as to the name of vessel designated by his Government.

No. 506.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 726.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 20, 1895, 3·15 P.M.*

MR. HAMPSON has telegraphed to me suggesting the formation of a corps of mountain police from among the Armenians of Sasun and Talori, under Turkish officers. He considers they would prove most effective in keeping the Kurds in order. Shall I instruct Mr. Cumberbatch to communicate this suggestion, which seems to me a good one, to Shakir Pasha?

No. 507.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 727.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 20, 1895, 3·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 559 of the 30th ultimo, plan of reforms was officially communicated yesterday by the Porte to German, Austrian, and Italian Ambassadors.

No. 508.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 728.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 20, 1895, 3·55 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs as follows:—

"The Ferik shares my opinion that it would be possible to prevent bloodshed among the Zeitoundis if the Sultan would at once dispatch a Commission, consisting of five or six suitable persons, to Zeitoun to persuade the rebels to accept the conditions of surrender laid down by His Majesty. There would be no difficulty in finding suitable persons here.

"The Ferik begs us not to divulge his knowledge of this proposal."

No. 509.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, November 20, 1895.*

I HAVE communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 18th instant to Baron Blanc, who, in expressing his thanks, states that "tout est bien d'accord au sujet du second stationnaire."

No. 510.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 226.) *Foreign Office, November* 20, 1895, 12·40 P.M.
(Telegraphic) P.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 718 of yesterday, requesting instructions on behalf of Consul Longworth as to extending protection to the Armenians of Ottoman origin who are naturalized as American citizens, and are now being tried before a court-martial at Trebizond.

You should consult your United States' colleague as to whether he is aware of any sufficient ground on which to base a claim for their protection.

Our rules lay down that unless naturalization has been effected with the sanction of the Porte, no claim for protection can be sustained, and the Consul can only watch the case and intervene in an unofficial manner.

No. 511.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 228.) *Foreign Office, November* 20, 1895, 6·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 726 of to-day respecting a proposal made by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush for the formation of a corps of mountain police composed of Armenians from Sasun and Talori, and commanded by Turkish officers.

The suggestion had better be reserved for the consideration of Her Majesty's Ambassador on his arrival at Constantinople.

No. 512.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 87.) *Foreign Office, November* 20, 1895, 3 P.M.
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 91, Secret, of yesterday, stating that satisfactory information had reached Count Goluchowski as to the language held by the German Ambassador to the Sultan.

The telegram from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople which I repeated to you on the 19th instant will show your Excellency that equally satisfactory information on the subject has been received by Mr. Herbert.

As regards the communication sent home by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, if correctly stated, it probably represents the alterations which he deemed it wise to make in any message which he received for transmission to the Porte.

No. 513.

Tewfik Pasha to Morel Bey.—(*Communicated November* 21.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 20 *Novembre*, 1895.

TÉLÉGRAMME adressé aux vilayets de Van, Bitlis, Erzeroum, Alep, Diarbékir, Trébizonde, Sivas, et Mamouret-ul-Aziz, en date du 5 (17) Novembre, 1895 :—

"Bien que les instructions itératives qui vous ont été déjà données prescrivent l'adoption dans votre vilayet de mesures propres à prévenir tout fait pouvant troubler l'ordre public ainsi que toute effusion de sang et d'empêcher qu'une classe de la population attaque l'autre ou que des actes contraires à la justice soient commis, de pareils cas continuent cependant à se produire. L'une des attributions les plus importantes des Valis étant de maintenir et d'assurer la tranquillité dans les provinces, je vous, conformément aux ordres formels de notre auguste Maître, vous prévenir que si le présent télégramme vous sera parvenu ou laisse se produire des [illegible] incendies, meurtres, sédition, perturbation publique, ou effusion de sang, une pareille infraction aux devoirs qui incombe aux autorités ne pourrait en aucune façon être pardonné et entraînerait une grave et absolue responsabilité. Cette responsabilité s'étend également aux Mutessarifs et aux Caïmacams. Vous devez

vous concerter aussi avec les Commandants pour l'adoption de dispositions en conséquence.

"Vous aurez surtout à veiller avec la plus grande vigilance à la protection des Consulats et des sujets étrangers, de façon à les mettre à l'abri de tout danger et à écarter tout motif de plainte de leur part. Tous les coupables devront être arrêtés et punis conformément à la loi.

"Vous télégraphierez en clair toutes les vingt-quatre heures au Ministère de l'Intérieur, au Séraskérat, au Grand Vizirat, et au Palais Impérial la situation du vilayet."

No. 514.

Tewfik Pasha to Morel Bey.—(*Communicated November* 21.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 20 *Novembre*, 1895.

TÉLÉGRAMME adressé aux Gouverneurs-Généraux des vilayets de Trébizonde, d'Erzeroum, Bitlis, Van, Diarbékir, Mamouret-ul-Aziz, Sivas, Adana, et Alep, en date du 5 (15) Novembre, 1895 :—

"Les Commandants de Brigade, en expédiant des corps volants pour la répression des désordres surgis dans leurs circonscriptions, feront une Proclamation aux populations pour engager ceux qui tentent de troubler à main armée la sécurité publique, à renoncer à leur attitude et à s'abstenir de tous faits qui seraient contraires à la volonté manifeste de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

"Ils auront à sévir immédiatement par les armes contre ceux qui ne se conformeraient pas à cette injonction et s'empresseraient d'empêcher, en faisant stationner des troupes sur divers points, tout mouvement des émeutiers pour attaquer à main armée les bourgs et villages.

"Si des meurtres et des actes d'insurrection venaient à être commis inopinément dans la sphère d'évolution d'un corps volant, les dits Commandants auront à en poursuivre immédiatement les auteurs sans délai et sans leur faire aucune sommation.

"Le Commandant-en-chef du 4e Corps d'Armée Impériale aura à prêter au moyen des troupes du dit corps, l'assistance nécessaire aux Commandants de brigade susmentionnés qui se trouveront sous ses ordres en vue d'assurer le succès de leur tâche.

"Le Séraskérat a été invité à transmettre des ordres télégraphiques dans ce sens tant au Muchir du dit corps d'armée qu'aux Commandants précités.

"La ligne de conduite à suivre par les autorités civiles à l'égard des agitateurs ayant été précédemment indiquée par télégraphe, conformément à un Iradé Impérial, vous aurez à faire à qui de droit des recommandations dans le sens du dit télégramme ayant l'envoi de troupes pour la répression des actes attentatoires à la sécurité publique.

"Ces dispositions ayant été revêtues de la sanction Impériale et des instructions en conséquence ayant été transmises au Séraskérat et aux Valis je vous engage encore une fois à vous y conformer strictement en ce qui concerne votre vilayet.

"Notre auguste Maître exigeant vivement que l'ordre soit rétabli au plus tôt dans les localités où il a été troublé, que la vie, l'honneur, et les biens de tous soient sauvegardés et que tous faits et actes contraires à la justice et à l'équité soient empêchés, vous aurez à veiller jour et nuit pour assurer la réalisation de la dite volonté souveraine en mettant sans retard fin aux désordres."

No. 515.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received November* 21.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Political Resident at Aden, dated the 20th November, regarding a revolt in the Yemen.

India Office, November 20, 1895.

Inclosure in No. 515.

The Resident, Aden, to Lord G. Hamilton.

November 20, 1895.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram of the 19th November.

Following from inhabitants of Sana, 18th November; cannot vouch for details:—

"Imaum Yemen, with tribes of Hashed and Bakil, said to be 10,000 armed with Martinis and Sniders, marching to place distant from Sana two days, made attack on Turks, who fled. Tribes followed, overtaking Turks, slew 300. Tribes of neighbourhood declined to act against Imaum. Much excitement Yemen; 6,000 Turkish troops arrived at Sana from Constantinople last month. Arabs constantly cutting lines of telegraph."

Particulars by post.

No. 516.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 729.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 21, 1895, 10·15 A.M.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo:—

"The outbreak at Marash yesterday was most serious, but I have no information yet as to the number of killed and wounded.

"The disturbances originated in the death of a Mussulman, which the Turks attributed to the Armenians, the result being an outbreak on the part of the Mussulman population. The troops were called out, and the Armenians fired on them from their houses, and killed many. The town was set fire to in four different quarters. The outbreak was suppressed in the afternoon, and the town was not bombarded. Large numbers of Mussulman refugees are crowding into Aleppo from the surrounding villages which have been burnt by the Zeitounlis. Their presence is a source of great danger, as whenever the troops advance against the Zeitounlis, they are sure to follow in their wake, and wreak their vengeance on their enemies.

"At Ainlah there were 200 killed and more wounded; an explosion occurred in a house where some dynamite was kept, and part of the town was burnt.

"All the Americans and English in Aleppo are safe."

No. 517.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 731.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 21, 1895, 10·45 A.M.

THE Acting British Consul at Angora telegraphs as follows:—

"Great uneasiness prevails throughout this vilayet, and it is urgently necessary that a new Vali should be at once appointed.

"There was a serious disturbance last Sunday at Marsovan, where it is reported that the Armenians slaughtered large numbers of Turks.

"At Choroum, the Turks wounded two Armenians, whereupon the Armenians all took refuge in their church, and up to last night, in spite of the assurances of the Mutessarif, they refused to move."

No. 518.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 732.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 21, 1895, 2·30 P.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Trebizond reports that he has received a telegram in private code from the British Consular Agent at Samsoun stating that the number of Christians killed in Amasia, and the neighbourhood, amounts to 1,000.

No. 519.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 733.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 21, 1895, 10·10 P.M.

I HAVE received a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond stating that great apprehension is felt at Samsoun of a massacre occurring there.

No. 520.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 734. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 21, 1895, 10·15 P.M.

ACCORDING to information received by the Russian Ambassador, a secret message from the Palace enjoining the authorities not to fire on Mussulmans accompanied the recent orders to the Valis to put a stop to the massacres.

No. 521.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 735.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 21, 1895, 10·35 P.M.

SIX Representatives have again received further message from the Sultan stating that His Majesty wishes the Council of Ministers which meets next Sunday to consider our request for Firmans for the extra "stationnaires." We have urged the necessity of Firmans being granted at once, replying in much the same terms as those contained in my telegram No. 725. Unless we use much stronger language, this sort of thing is likely to go on for some time. As there is no German vessel available in the Mediterranean, German Ambassador has not asked for a Firman, but he is energetically supporting our request, and he may apply for a Firman later. I have received a telegram from Admiral Seymour, requesting me, if it is impossible to keep both, to send away the "Cockatrice," and keep the "Imogene." As my colleagues are fussing about our having three ships, and as Minister for Foreign Affairs has also raised objections, I fear I shall have to send the "Cockatrice" to Salonica. On the other hand we shall have much fewer men here than the other Powers, if the "Cockatrice" leaves.

No. 522.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November* 21, 1895.

THE following has been received by me from Sir P. Currie:—

"I called upon the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, but his Excellency confined himself to generalities as to the necessity that the understanding between the Powers at Constantinople should be maintained.

"The refusal by Russia of his proposal that authority should be given to the Ambassadors to summon the fleets is, professedly, not considered final by Count Goluchowski, though he is evidently much disappointed.

"He considered that the one essential point was that the concert of the Ambassadors at Constantinople should be maintained, and that there was no occasion for excitement. Full powers to act in the sense indicated had been given to the Austrian Ambassador. Satisfactory assurances had been received by Count Goluchowski, through the Italian Ambassador, that Germany would thoroughly support Italy, England, and Austria in the second line.

"Count Goluchowski agreed that the necessity of using our efforts to obtain from the Sultan the nomination of some such responsible Minister as Said Pasha, and the delegation to him of some measure of authority, should be kept in view by us."

No. 523.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 21.)

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November* 21, 1895.

THE reply of the French Government to Count Goluchowski's proposals was received by his Excellency to-day. They accept the first two points, but with regard to the third, viz., the passage of the Dardanelles by ships of war, they state that such a proposal demands mature consideration.

For the present, at any rate, his Excellency hopes that this third point may be permitted by circumstances to remain in abeyance.

No. 524.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 229.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 21, 1895, 3:30 P.M.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 728 of yesterday respecting a suggestion made by Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, after consultation with the Ferik, for the appointment of a Commission to arrange for the surrender of the Zeitounlis on the terms laid down by the Sultan.

I authorize you to bring this suggestion forward in any manner which you may consider most judicious.

No. 525.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 116.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 21, 1895.

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador called here on the 15th instant and stated that his Government, in compliance with the recommendations made by the Representatives of the six Powers at Constantinople, had at once placed a second "stationnaire" at the disposal of Baron Calice, and had instructed him to apply to the Porte for the necessary Firman to enable the vessel to pass the Dardanelles without waiting for her arrival.

Count Goluchowski hoped that Her Majesty's Government would take the same course.

I have informed Count Deym that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople has also been authorized to agree to the Russian proposal, and to communicate with the Admiral in command of the British squadron as to the dispatch of a suitable vessel.

I said I thought that the sooner application was made for the necessary Firmans for the passage of these vessels through the Dardanelles the better.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 526.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 117. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 21, 1895.

AFTER making the communication recorded in my immediately preceding despatch, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador went on to say that Count Goluchowski hoped that the dispatch of a second "stationnaire" to Constantinople by all the Great Powers would be sufficient to calm the agitation prevailing there, and would make an impression on the Porte. But he was of opinion that the Powers ought also to contemplate the possibility of this step not sufficing to prevent the danger of anarchy, and of other measures being necessary for the protection of foreign interests. Collective action for this purpose could scarcely be unanimous and efficacious unless concerted beforehand, and unless the means to carry it out were already available.

The Austro-Hungarian Government had consequently decided also to send four ships of war to the Levant. Russia had already a fleet at her disposal there, and it was supposed that, besides the English and French squadrons, the German and Italian flags would be represented in Turkish waters.

If events should occur threatening European life and property at Constantinople, and the Turkish Government should be unable to restore order, the Austro-Hungarian Government thought that the Ambassadors there should concert together for calling up an equal number of vessels from each squadron to protect European interests. In such case it would be desirable that no regard should be paid to any refusal on the part of the Porte to let the ships pass the Dardanelles, but that any resistance to their entry should be overcome by common action.

Count Goluchowski agreed with Baron Calice that it would not be prudent to bring the squadrons too near the Dardanelles, which would be considered as a threat, and would cause increased excitement. He was further of opinion that it would be advisable to avoid grouping the squadrons according to alliances between the countries, and that above all the unanimity of the Powers should be made clearly evident.

Count Deym was instructed to inquire whether Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to give instructions in this sense to Her Majesty's Representative at Constantinople.

I saw his Excellency on the 16th instant, and told him that Her Majesty's Government were ready to concur in the course proposed by Count Goluchowski, if the other Great Powers did so. I said that Sir P. Currie, who was returning at once to Constantinople, would receive authority to join in any measures which the six Representatives might consider necessary for the protection of the interests confided to their charge, and to communicate with the Admiral in command of the British squadron as to the dispatch of the ships required for the purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 527.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 803.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 15, 1895.

THE Sublime Porte made yesterday a communication to the Dragomans of the Embassies respecting the forces called out in Asia Minor to restore order, and the dispatch of a Commission to the disturbed districts.

The same communication was officially published in the press to-day, and I have the honour to inclose a translation herewith.

It would appear that, in spite of the official notice to the contrary, the Commission of Control has not met yet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 527.

Extract from the "Terjuman-i-Hakikat" of November 3 (15), 1895.

Official Communication.

(Translation.)

ON account of the disturbances which have occurred in certain vilayets in Anatolia, and as the first of the measures adopted under the directions of His Imperial Majesty, besides the 4th and 5th Corps d'Armée, 128 battalions of Redifs have been called under arms, and are being gradually dispatched to the necessary places.

Similarly, for the complete re-establishment of order and tranquillity, the dispatch of officials to carry out the requisite administrative, military, and judicial undertakings to the places where such are necessary has been approved, and by Iradé of His Majesty, Sami Effendi, Councillor of State, Lieutenant-Generals Saad-ed-din and Abdullah Pashas, Jemal Bey, of the Commission of Control, and Ibrahim Bey, of the Requests Department of the Court of Cassation, and Hussein Rushdi Effendi, member of the Criminal Section of the Court of Cassation, have been appointed.

They are divided into two sections, one of which is to visit Trebizond, Gumush-khane, Baibourt, Erzeroum, Mush, Bitlis, and the other Samsoun, Amasia, Tokat, Sivas, Malatia, Kharput, Erghana Madeni, and Diarbekir. Both sections proceeded to their posts on Tuesday last on steamers specially provided for that purpose.

No. 525.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 801.) *Constantinople, November 15, 1895.*

My Lord,

TO-DAY'S papers contain a list of thirty-nine officers of the Hamadié cavalry who have received promotion.

This has attracted much attention in connection with the statement that Shakir Pasha has telegraphed to say he found it impossible to disarm the Kurds.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 529.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 48.) *Berlin, November 22, 1895, 4 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

THE Imperial Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs states that yesterday a Council was held at the Palace on the question of granting Firmans, but that no decision was arrived at, as the Sultan opposed the matter.

Baron von Marschall added that, as the request was in accordance with the Treaties, His Majesty would have to give way.

No. 530.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 233.) *Foreign Office, November 22, 1895.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 735 of yesterday, you will, of course, retain both Her Majesty's ships "Cockatrice" and "Imogene" until Her Majesty's ship "Dryad" has arrived at Constantinople.

No. 531.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.

(No. 234.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 22, 1895.*

I APPROVE the language which, as reported in your telegram No. 738 of to-day, you held in reply to the inquiry made by Ismail Kemal Bey, in the Sultan's name, as to whether the request for a second "stationnaire" would be withdrawn if His Imperial Majesty were to make proposals to the Embassies for assistance in establishing a liberal form of government.

Her Majesty's Government cannot believe that any excitement could really be caused by the arrival of five small ships coming in singly at intervals.

No. 532.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Gosselin.

(No. 118.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 22, 1895.*

I REQUEST you to state to the German Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government have heard with great satisfaction of the language held by the German Ambassador at Constantinople to the Sultan, by which an excellent effect appears to have been produced. You will express our best acknowledgments for the friendly support of the German Government.

I have been glad to learn from Count Hatzfeldt that the German Ambassador has also joined in endeavouring to obtain clemency for the Armenian insurgents of Zeitoun. If barbarities were committed there by the Turkish troops, a very serious effect would be produced on public opinion in this country and in Europe generally.

No. 533.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 49.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, November 23, 1895, 12·30 P.M.*

ACCORDING to a telegram received yesterday by Baron von Marschall from the Imperial Ambassador at Constantinople, Tewfik Pasha has stated that the Sultan has promised to sign the Firman for the additional "stationnaires."

No. 534.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 741.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 23, 1895, 10·20 P.M.*

MR. HALLWARD telegraphs that Van is in a state of panic, and that the Kurds are still pillaging the villages round about, and murdering the inhabitants. The Vali, according to his own confession, is helpless to do anything.

No. 535.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 46.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, November 23, 1895.*

BARON BLANC made the following communication to me to-day:—

He says that information has reached him indirectly from Constantinople to the effect that since the 21st instant energetic orders are being sent to the provinces by the Sultan both with regard to the suppression of the disorders, which must be put an end to inexorably and at all hazards, and respecting the mobilization which the

Mussulmans are told is with a view to the eventual necessity of offering resistance to the joint action which the Western Powers are threatening.

The Zeitouni Armenians will not lay down their arms unless they are pardoned by the Sultan, and it appears that Her Majesty's Government have insisted on their receiving the necessary guarantees in view of the massacres which justify them in the defensive attitude they have taken up, and of fresh massacres which are likely to occur, and for which the directions issued by the Sultan to repress disorders may serve as a pretext.

Baron Blanc adds that, as he was not in possession of direct information with regard to the steps Her Majesty's Government were taking, he has only desired Signor Panza to carry out his general instructions, and to support his colleagues in any action they may take in the matter.

No. 536.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 24.*)

(No. 743.) *Constantinople, November 24, 1895.*
(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Consul at Trebizond telegraphs that he is informed by our Consular Agent at Samsoun that a massacre has occurred at Marsovan, and that about 500 Christians were killed there.

No. 537.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 25.*)

(No. 806.) *Constantinople, November 16, 1895.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the state of affairs in the Sivas Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 537.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Herbert.

Trebizond, November 5, 1895.
Sir,

THE following contents of a letter from Dr. Jewett, dated Sivas, the 30th October, show a very alarming and deplorable state of affairs in that vilayet:—

"This province has been in a ferment of an excitement. Sanguinary encounters between Turks and Armenians have with good reason been anticipated at Sivas, Tokat, Amassia, and Marsovan. However, up to the present moment, I have not heard of anything serious at these places. The Vali has sent the Protestant preacher of Marsovan to Gorki because he preached too boldly, and protested to the Kaimakam against the arming of the Turks and disarming of the Armenians. The people are much excited by this event. The Kurds are now the chief disturbers of the peace. About two months ago they began operating in the region of Divrik. They attacked the villages of Pougan, Zumara, Armoudan, Hassova, and others. From Pengan they carried off 500 sheep. They are said to be from the Dersim district, and the number is variously estimated from 200 to 400."

The Armenian Archbishop received the following information from his deputy at Karahissar:—

"Telegraphed 26th October:—

"For some days past Boys of Soushehir, Mahommedans and Kurds by hundreds, attacked the Cariehs of Aghovanes, Ibau, Toretz, Sarindick, Ezbeder, Agrakous, and Hanlick, openly plundered the whole of their property, killed and wounded some, and committed other outrages. They are still going on. The lives, property, and honour of the Armenians is in danger.

"Telegraphed on the 28th October:—

"In the last few days Mahommedans and Kurds attacked eighteen Armenian cariehs, plundered everything, killed, wounded, and beat some of the people.

"Also, yesterday, they attacked the quarters of the city (Karahissar), and up to 12 o'clock in the evening they plundered about forty Armenian houses, they killed a priest, and killed and wounded others, burnt one house. Therefore, most of the people from the villages and city gathered in the church for security.

"The Vali has sent about seventy newly-collected Redifs to Karahissar. He directs the Archbishop to order the Armenians at Karahissar to give up their arms. Without arms I think they would quickly be slaughtered by Mahommedans. Similar affairs are reported near Gergenis and Enderes. At the latter place 400 are said to have been killed, which is probably an exaggeration.

"Yesterday it was reported that 1,500 Kurds had appeared near Dousla-hissar. About seventy-five Redifs and zaptiehs were sent to the Divrik region.

"At Gurun the city is excited over the imprisonment of an Armenian refugee from Sasun. Trouble is feared there. Fifty Redifs have been sent there from here, and a lot of Circassians are reported to have been sent to Gurun from Azizieh. Sending the Circassians I regard as a very bad omen.

"The Redifs are an untrained lot, without any adequate conception of responsibility. Two days ago 100 new zaptiehs were hastily picked up and put on duty. They embrace all varieties of unsuitable men. I think the situation is very dangerous and critical."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 538.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 25.*)

(No. 807. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 16, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 791, Confidential, of the 13th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, giving his views on the recent massacres of Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 538.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Herbert.

(Strictly Confidential.)
Sir, *Trebizond, November 6, 1895.*

THE series of massacres in the interior resemble much, I hear, the one that was experienced by the Armenian population at Trebizond.

That such outbreaks are spontaneous is hard to believe, while the connivance in them of men in responsible positions is scarcely questionable.

Hence the effect is only too visible, and while the cause must be sought for elsewhere the medium may well be suspected. From what I have heard and seen indeed there appears to be in all this a secret agency at work, which, while exciting the Mahommedan element, is paralyzing the action of the authorities. It doubtless wields an enormous power to bring about such convulsions, a power far beyond that of Armenian revolutionists, who at worst can only become insurgents and break out into a guerilla warfare.

I have given the subject my best attention, and I have arrived at only one conclusion. It is briefly this. The spies of the Palace infesting the country are the chief instigators of the massacres. In the absence of conclusive evidence, however, it is a mere conjecture on my part, but any unbiassed mind, I believe, would think the same by giving some thought to all the circumstances attending the lamentable events in these regions.

It will be admitted, I think, that shooting, slashing, and looting inoffensive Armenians for a political rather than a religious cause are not exactly deeds commendable

to the usually law-abiding Turks of Asia Minor. Now we hear of such butcheries from all quarters. What is strange is the control under which this hideous work is done. Even ferocious men mad with excitement spared women and children, and distinguished one race of Christians from another. More than this, when calm again they excused themselves for having carried out what they were made to believe was a mandate of their Sovereign. This is surely significant enough when taken with the fact that the killing and sacking were commenced by the troops.

Before the night disturbance of the 4th ultimo, which, as reported in my despatch of the following day, was checked successfully, no one could have conceived the possibility of a massacre at Trebizond, though troubles such as riots on a small scale were for some time apprehended. I was out on that occasion, and was surprised to find the Turks under the impression that Armenians were assaulting the Mussulmans. I then assured many of them that they were deceived, and persuaded some of them to return to their homes. It was soon discovered that the false alarm arose from a recruit having received a mortal wound from an officer. It was an affair of a woman, as the authorities subsequently stated, such brawls being rather common at Trebizond. The town became almost at once full of absurd rumours about the Armenians and about this Consulate. Who started them I could never find out. On the 7th ultimo I saw the Vali, and found him during the interview extremely nervous. I once more impressed upon him the gravity of the situation, and urged him to carry out speedily my own suggestions and those of the Consular Body. He promised to do so, but left his promises unfulfilled. The massacre took place on the following day. It was then that cries were raised, "On to the English Consulate," but happily the armed bands could not be led to the attack.

A day or two before, and after the outbreak, it was evident that the Moslems were in great terror of the Armenians. This was remarkable, as it was inexplicable. Only now, indeed, are they beginning to understand that their fears were without foundation. Furthermore, they no longer glare or look askance at those of this Consulate, though the officials continue to avoid being seen speaking to us publicly. All this tends to show that the hatred of the Turks against the Armenians is not genuine. Much less so that evinced by them against England. There are indeed many signs that a turn in our favour has taken place, indications that may lead one to think the ill-feeling was superficial if not artificial. I have some hope, therefore, that before long the influence of this Consulate will be regained, an influence exercised to some degree over the governed as well as the governing.

I find the better Turks in private not only ashamed but apprehensive. They seem all to be in a state of suspense, and some of them had gone so far as to drop me words of a treasonable significance. The Vali, for instance, remarked to me latterly in a mysterious whisper, "Change the shaft of the machinery, and all will go well."

I need only, in conclusion, refer to my despatch of the 17th June, and remark that the espionage system in Turkey is a curse which apparently benumbs the Executive and incites the populace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 539.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 25.*)

(No. 808.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 16, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting that affairs at Trebizond have improved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 539.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Trebizond, November* 9, 1895.

IT is not, I hope, too early for me to say that an improvement in the situation is manifesting itself at Trebizond.

The Vali I found lately more amenable to good advice, while the generality of the Turks it would seem are displaying a kindlier disposition towards the Armenians.

Cadri Bey, however, though much less unreasonable, still maintains that there was an insurrectionary movement at Trebizond. His stubbornness on this point leads one almost to think that he is afflicted with a peculiar kind of insanity. I had often enough admitted to him that revolutionists in and out of the country were greatly to blame. This was not enough, so I thought it best now to avoid speaking to him of the past, and to confine myself as much as possible to the present and the future. Our conversations have thus become once more free and cordial.

The measures taken to inspire confidence may, I think, on the whole, be considered satisfactory. An Armenian exodus is no longer forbidden, stolen property is gradually restored, while the suspects in prison, now numbering thirty-six, are allowed the solace of seeing their families and obtaining some comforts from their homes. More than this, any one molesting any one is promptly carried off to gaol, and more than this again, arms carried by even Turks, if seen in the streets, are at once confiscated.

For the maintenance of public order and security sixteen battalions of the Reserves have been called out in the vilayet, each one being formed 1,000 strong by enrolling with the Redifs some of the Mustaphuz. The Nizam soldiers will be shortly leaving for Erzinghian, while the new levies of infantry are to be so disposed as to insure safety to life and property throughout the province. The Vali tells me he has confidence in these men, and further that he has money to feed and clothe them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 540.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 25.*)

(No. 810.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 19, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum, inclosing Reports on the state of affairs in Bitlis, Van, Kharput, Diarbekir, and the surrounding districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 540.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Erzeroum, November* 4, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a despatch received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush reporting that disorders took place at Bitlis on the 25th and 26th ultimo resulting in the death of several hundred Armenians and the pillaging of their shops, and that the greatest fear existed at Mush lest similar disturbances should break out in that town and district.

I also inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van reporting the insecurity existing in that vilayet, and extracts from a private letter from Kharput as to the condition of things in that place and Diarbekir.

All these reports depict a state of things which existed at Erzeroum before the disorders which took place on the 30th ultimo as duly reported by me at the time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH

Inclosure 2 in No. 510.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Mush, October 29, 1895.

Sir,

IT is with deep regret that I have to report that a very serious disturbance took place in Bitlis on Friday last the 25th instant, resulting, I fear, in the death of very many persons. The telegraph line between Mush and Bitlis having been cut—it is supposed by Kurds—we have, so far, very few reliable details, either as to the origin and course of the events, or as to the number killed. On the latter point, the Mutessarif told me, until yesterday, that he believed the victims to be at least 500. Now the authorities are endeavouring to make out that they are only about 100; while the latest Armenian report gives the number at 800. From my knowledge of the place, I am disposed to fear that the latter number is at least nearer the truth.

The disturbances began when the Mussulmans were coming from the Mosques, and lasted at least four hours that day. According to what I hear, the whole bazaar was pillaged and wrecked by Kurds on the following day.

As to the origin, the Turks say that the Armenians attacked the Mosques. This is not improbable, as is allowed by the Turks themselves, the cowardly character of the Bitlis Armenians being a by-word in these parts. I have reliable information that, on the previous Friday, 18th October, the Mussulmans went to the Mosques fully armed, with the avowed intention of attacking the Christians; but the acting Vali, having been warned, sent sufficient troops to prevent any disorder. It is probable that, on the 25th, matters got beyond his control; which view is supported by his appeals for more troops. I think that there is also little doubt that the Kurds from Modeki came into Bitlis to join in the massacre.

For further details I must wait until reliable information arrives.

I am glad to be able to state that all the Americans in Bitlis are, so far, safe.

The result of the news from Bitlis was to produce a terrible panic in Mush, which has as yet but little abated. All shops were closed last Saturday, and very few are open even to-day. Mussulmans and Kurds parade the streets fully armed; and though I have repeatedly urged the Mutessarif to issue an order that no one shall carry arms in the streets, it has been ineffectual. The Mussulmans believe, or pretend to believe, that the Armenians intend to attack them, and their fears are (so they say) especially directed to Sasun, from which district the Armenians—fully armed by means of the pretended relief supplies sent them by the English Committee—are advancing in large numbers against Mush. They (the Mussulmans) on their side are calling in the Kurds from the neighbouring mountains to protect them.

As the Armenians (who certainly have not the least idea of attacking the Mussulmans) are in an abject state of terror, and, in spite of my strong advice, declare they dare not open their shops so long as the Mussulmans carry arms and Kurds are in the neighbourhood, it is difficult to see a peaceful end to this situation, which is most critical.

Yesterday evening the chief Mussulmans and Christians of the town met to discuss the means of restoring confidence. The result was an ultimatum on the part of the former that the American missionaries must leave Sasun; that, if this were done, they would abandon their fears of an attack from that quarter, and cease to carry arms; but if not, the present panic would continue, and, very probably, result in a repetition of the Bitlis affair. Three days' delay was given to the Christians for an answer.

I am in doubt what view to take of this demand. If the Mussulmans are honest in their ideas, they are showing a crass ignorance and fanaticism which seems almost hopeless; if they are not honest, their intentions must be most sinister.

I had a long interview with the Mutessarif last night on the subject. It is evident that, since his arrival here, the views of his co-religionists have been carefully instilled into him. I said that, if he assured me that the return of the missionaries was the only means of securing freedom from disorders, I would ask Her Majesty's Ambassador to authorize me to recall them, at least temporarily; but at the same time warned him that, if this became necessary, the recall of the missionaries from the scene of their disinterested and humane labours on behalf of Ottoman subjects would, I thought, create a very bad impression in the civilized world; and also that if—which I entirely disbelieved—there were any idea of sedition among the people of Sasun and Talori, the recall of the missionaries would remove one of the chief restraints. Eventually the Mutessarif promised to endeavour to persuade the Mussulmans that their suspicions were unfounded.

The Kurds are profiting by the situation to commit outrages in every direction. I hear that the large village of Coultouk, two hours from Bitlis, has been entirely wrecked, and a large number of the inhabitants killed. In the plain of Mush alone, ten villages were pillaged last night, not without loss of life I fear. The followers of Ibo, of Varto (*vide* my despatch of the 9th instant), attacked the village of Avram; also in the plain of Mush, killed two men and wounded six, and carried off a large number of sheep.

The outlook is very black, and the improvement of the last few months is, I fear, more than undone; and this must largely be attributed to the criminal folly and impatience of the Armenians in Constantinople and elsewhere where they were the cause of disorders.

I have kept Her Majesty's Embassy fully informed by telegraph of the main facts contained in this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

P.S. *October 30.*—The position here is unchanged to-day. From all sides come stories of Kurd outrages, villages robbed, Armenians murdered, &c. In Boulanik things are very bad. The two leading Christians of that caza were murdered at Liss yesterday. I am very anxious about Sasun and Talori.

The Kurds are, I fear, now beyond the control of the Government, and the situation throughout the vilayet is most serious.

C. S. H.

Inclosure 3 in No. 510.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Cumberbatch.

Van, October 30, 1895.

Sir,

THERE has been a very uneasy feeling among all classes of the population here for the last week, caused on the one hand by rumoured preparations among the Turks for a hostile movement against the Christians, and on the other hand by exaggerated reports which were current among the Moslems of an intended rising of the Armenians. The anxiety was intensified, and reached something like a panic, especially among the Armenians, on the 26th instant, when a report came from Bitlis of a serious conflict between the Moslems and Christians there. Hitherto, however, no disturbance has occurred, thanks in great measure to the precautions taken both by the civil and military authorities, and the anxiety in the town has somewhat diminished in the last two days.

On the other hand, the state of things in the villages is deplorable. Threats of massacre are continually being made by the Kurds against the Armenians, and the latter know that if these threats were carried out they would be completely at the mercy of the Kurds, who are nearly all well armed, while the Armenians have practically no arms at all.

The report that reached here ten days ago of the acceptance of the scheme of reforms has not tended to improve matters, as the Kurds declare that they will not accept any reforms, whether approved by the Sultan or not, and meantime there are no signs whatever of the enforcement of any reforms. Were a serious attempt made to carry out reforms I do not believe for a moment that there would be any real resistance on the part of the Moslem population, which would largely benefit by any measures taken to insure greater security for life and property, and a better administration; but the condition of uncertainty prevailing in the minds of all, and the excited state of feeling manifested throughout the province by a large population of armed Kurds are very dangerous elements in the present situation, and it is most desirable that immediate steps should be taken for a settlement of affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

Inclosure 4 in No. 540.

Extracts from a Private Letter from Kharput, dated October 21, 1895.

* * * * * * *

Kharput.—This region is quiet, and general confidence is largely restored, although the knowledge of the riots in Constantinople has excited the Turks a good deal. The Armenians about us show no disposition to disturb the peace, although their patience is greatly tried.

* * * * *

Diarbekir.—About three weeks ago Enis Pasha was appointed Vali, and upon that the Christian Notables of Diarbekir sent thanks to the Porte, praising his efficiency, &c. This act of the Notables offended the common people among the Christians, and they sent a counter-statement to the Patriarchates saying that his administration had been a failure, &c. At the same time they closed every church and all the Christian schools, and there was a good deal of excitement. The shops occupied by Christians were also closed for three days. Meanwhile it is said that the Turks planned to burn the market, but the military Pasha heard of the plan, and went to the mosque where they were congregated at night, and persuaded them to desist from their undertaking. This is confidently believed. The churches were closed about two weeks, but it was expected that they would be opened yesterday—Sunday.

No. 541.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 25.*)

(No. 811.)

Constantinople, November 19, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum, giving an account of the recent disturbances in that town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 541.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Erzeroum, November 4, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 30th ultimo and following days on the subject of the disorders that took place here last Wednesday, I have the honour to report as follows.

In my despatch of the 29th ultimo, I endeavoured to explain the situation as it stood on the eve of those events.

For some days previous there had been many signs of preparations on the part of the Mussulmans, and the Armenians evinced fear bordering on panic.

These signs became more unmistakable in the morning of the 30th October, when the following was the attitude of the four elements of the population principally implicated in what followed:—

1. The authorities, civil and military, who, in view of the action of the Armenian revolutionists at Constantinople, Trebizond, and elsewhere, and probably under instructions from Constantinople, were nervously awaiting an attack on the higher officials or peaceful Mussulmans by the small band of political agitators, whose number was greatly exaggerated, and they prepared to crush them with all the vindictiveness and ferocity accompanying Turkish modes of suppressing so-called rebellions.

2. The numerous gangs of Mussulmans collected all over the town. Some were impelled by mere fanatical impulses, others were ruffians of the lowest class bent on plunder. Both these crowds were armed with various weapons.

3. The small band of Armenian political agitators belonging to the "Hintchak" party, whose object undoubtedly is to provoke disturbances.

4. The mass of peaceful Armenians whose last wish was to embroil themselves with the Mussulman mob. Cowardly by nature and totally unable to defend themselves, some, if not most of them, belong to the "Tashnaktzagan" (Unionist) party, the principal object of which is to organize measures of defence against Turkish onslaughts, but whose members are not necessarily to be considered as "revolutionists."

The authorities, both civil and military, were fully warned of the impending danger, but, notwithstanding all the precautions taken, they were unable to control the fury of the Mussulman mob which broke out directly a shot was fired near the Governor-General's official residence. From which side it proceeded is not satisfactorily explained, but the authorities maintain that it was fired by an Armenian at the Chief of Gendarmerie.

The Armenians immediately shut their shops and fled in all directions only to be cut down, shot, or clubbed by the mob and soldiery. Some fought for their lives, but most of them fell easy victims to their enemies, who at once proceeded to plunder the shops, in some of which the inmates had hidden themselves.

A certain number of Armenians, probably members of the "Hintchak" party, fired on the soldiers from the shops and from houses in other quarters of the town.

The mob was only restrained when it had completely wrecked the bazaars, and it was not allowed to get beyond, though a great deal of pillaging, accompanied by murder, was committed in the isolated Armenian quarters where artillery men committed most of the excesses.

Order was not restored till the next morning when I visited the scenes of the greatest carnage and plundering, to find all the bazaars, consisting of over 1,000 shops, entirely wrecked, and the streets strewn with debris. Marks of the sanguinary deeds were plentiful. I also called on the Vali and urged upon him and Shakir Pasha the necessity, not only for humanity's sake, but for the tranquillity of the town, of exerting their utmost influence to restrain their co-religionists, civilians as well as soldiers, from further reprisals, and to have all the dead bodies brought back from the places outside the town-walls where they had been taken, and to hand them over to the church authorities for burial. This was done, and I subsequently visited the Armenian cemetery, and counted over 200 bodies. The next day I witnessed the burial of 300 bodies in one large grave. Seven were those of women, one of whom had been strangled, and six of children, one being that of an infant of a few months who had evidently been trampled to death.

To these some fifty more have since been added, making a total of over 350 accounted for so far.

On the Turkish side there were only twenty-five killed, according to the official version, viz., six soldiers and nineteen civilians.

The Turks reckon forty-one soldiers, two officers, and forty-six civilians as wounded, and on the Armenian side the number is much greater. At the ambulance at the French "Brothers" school alone there are over 100 being attended to.

A considerable quantity of the pillaged goods has been recovered from Turkish houses, and is being redistributed to the destitute Armenians, who are also receiving a daily allowance of bread provided by the Municipality until relief can be organized.

There have been one or two alarms raised since, but otherwise order has been re-established, but certainly not confidence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 542.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 26.*)

(No. 812.)

Constantinople, November 19, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 506 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum regarding the part taken by the soldiers in the recent disturbances in that town and the continued arrests of Armenians.

Mr. Dwight, of the Bible-house in this city, has received a letter from Mr. Chambers,

a missionary of Erzeroum, saying that he was given a guard of soldiers during the massacre who protected his house from the mob, but pillaged all the other houses in the street.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 542.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Erzeroum, November 4, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 3rd instant, reporting the decision come to by the Russian, French, Italian Consuls and myself with regard to the participation of the soldiers in the recent disorders, and suggesting that representations might be made to the Sublime Porte for their prompt trial and punishment in order to restore tranquillity in this town, I have the honour to report that about twenty soldiers have been arrested, presumably on the charge of pillaging, and the men of the artillery, who are chiefly compromised, have been ordered to remain in barracks until further notice. Whether they will ever be brought to trial on the charge of participation in the excesses will depend on further instructions from Constantinople.

The fact that both Colonel Tewfik Bey and Colonel Ismail Bey—who enjoy unenviable notoriety for the part they are alleged to have taken in the Sasun massacres—were present on the spot, may account for a great deal of the unbridled licence of the soldiers on this occasion.

The arrests of Armenians, mentioned as taking place, has ceased, for the present at least, and many have been released, presumably until they are required by the court-martial which is to be instituted when things are quieter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 543.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 813.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, November 19, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum respecting the distress existing among the Armenian population of that town in consequence of the recent disorders.

I have communicated the Rev. W. N. Chambers' message to Mr. Dwight, who informs me that he has written to a former American Minister here, Mr. Strauss, who, it appears, is popular with the Turks, asking him to undertake the organization of a system of relief for Anatolia generally.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 543.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Erzeroum, November 5, 1895.

Sir,

I BEG leave to confirm my telegram of the 3rd instant, reporting that, owing to the regrettable disorders of the 30th ultimo and to the general ruin caused by the loss of life and property in this town and district, the destitution of the Armenian population will be complete this winter unless outside aid is sent to their relief, as was done in the case of Sasun.

The poverty is even now visible, as crowds of poor people have already been compelled to commence begging for bread and clothing.

I also begged you, on behalf of the Rev. W. N. Chambers, of the American Mission here, to tell the Bible Society to urge the American Minister to make an appeal to the United States.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 544.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 814.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, November 19, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum respecting the recent disorders at Baiburt, and stating that he has no confirmation of the report that the Armenians were the aggressors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 544.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,
Erzeroum, November 5, 1895.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 28th ultimo, instructing me to make inquiries as to whether Armenians were the aggressors on the occasion of the disorders at Baiburt, I have the honour to state that, owing to the disturbances that have taken place here and the disordered state of this region in general, it has been impossible to obtain any details about those occurrences beyond those I gave in my telegrams of the 27th and 28th ultimo (which must have crossed yours), to the effect that certain Armenians had fired on some Turkish peasants, and that over 160 Armenians and 11 Mussulmans had lost their lives in the reprisals that ensued.

My information was, however, derived from Turkish official sources, and needs confirmation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 545.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 815.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, November 19, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 775 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum, giving a corrected report of the number of Armenians killed in the disturbances at Erzinghian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 545.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,
Erzeroum, November 6, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 24th ultimo on the subject of the disorders at Erzinghian, I have the honour to state that the number of Armenian victims was therein under-estimated.

According to more recent official reports it was admitted that 260 Armenians were

killed in that town, and I think it is likely that these figures even do not represent the real number.

When details from other sources besides official ones are obtainable, both as to these figures and as to the origin of the conflicts there, I shall be better able to judge of their accuracy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 516.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 25.*)

(No. 816.) *Constantinople, November 19, 1895.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum, reporting extensive raids by Kurds and Lazes on Armenian villages throughout the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 516.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Erzeroum, November 6, 1895.

Sir,

AS mentioned in several recent telegrams and despatches, raids by Kurds and Lazes on Armenian villages in this vilayet have been going on simultaneously with the disorders in the chief towns. Details are not yet forthcoming, but it is generally feared that the devastation has been widespread, though not always accompanied by murder. The entire districts of Terdjan, Khinis, and Passin have been pillaged by these marauding bands, as well as the Erzeroum plain.

The authorities, being taken up with the disorders in the towns, have been unable to adequately protect the villagers, except a little at first, and, when matters are more settled, stories of ravages that have been, and are being, committed will pour in from all sides.

As stated in my telegram of this day's date, Shakir Pasha left hurriedly this morning for Khinis, where the Kurds in strong force were reported as having fallen on that town and its neighbouring villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 517.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 25.*)

(No. 817.) *Constantinople, November 19, 1895.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum, forwarding a Memorandum drawn up by the foreign Consuls in that town in regard to the disturbances which have recently occurred there.

I propose at the next meeting of the Representatives of the six Powers to suggest to my colleagues, who have Consuls at Erzeroum, that this document should be communicated officially to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 517.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, November 7, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, on the subject of the disorders that took place here on the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith a Memorandum which has been drawn up at my suggestion and signed by all my colleagues (except the Persian Consul, who declined to take part in our meetings) and myself, showing that we are all of one opinion as to the more important facts connected with those disturbances.

This document is also being sent to the Russian, French, and Italian Ambassadors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 517.

Memorandum.

(Confidentiel.)

LE Consul-Général de Russie, le Consul d'Italie, le Consul d'Angleterre, et le Vice-Consul de France à Erzeroum, soussignés, se sont réunis aujourd'hui au Consulat-Général de Russie en cette ville pour se communiquer leurs impressions au sujet des événements survenus à Erzeroum le 18 (30) Octobre, 1895, et jours suivants. D'après leurs constatations personnelles, les témoignages des blessés, et autres renseignements sûrs, les Soussignés sont arrivés aux conclusions suivantes, qu'ils croient devoir noter sous forme de Mémorandum :—

1. La population Musulmane d'Erzeroum était prête, depuis quelque temps, à attaquer les Arméniens, aussi bien qu'à repousser une attaque de ceux-ci.

2. Avant le 18 (30) Octobre la plupart des Musulmans ont pu circuler avec leurs armes—ce qui était interdit aux Arméniens, qu'on fouillait et désarmait à l'occasion.

3. Des soldats ont tiré sur des Arméniens armés ou non-armés, et ont participé au pillage ; les blessures d'un grand nombre de victimes confirment ces faits.

4. Il n'y a aucune raison suffisante pour affirmer de quel côté est parti le premier coup.

5. De nombreux Arméniens avaient des armes et étaient prêts à s'en servir ; les Arméniens ont tiré de quelques maisons et boutiques ; mais la majorité était sans armes, ne songeait qu'à se cacher, et n'a offert aucune résistance.

6. Le nombre des morts, du côté des Arméniens, s'est élevé à 350 environ (cadavres retrouvés au 26 Octobre [7 Novembre]) et du côté des Musulmans à vingt-cinq, dont six soldats (renseignements officiels), ce qui confirmerait les faits cités plus haut.

7. Environ 1,000 boutiques et 300 maisons ont été saccagées.

8. Les autorités, averties des dispositions de la population Musulmane, auraient dû prendre certaines précautions et prévenir les attroupements ; quel que soient les ordres donnés par les autorités, les troubles n'ont été arrêtés qu'une fois les boutiques complètement saccagées et leurs habitants massacrés ; les massacres et le pillage ont continué la nuit du 30–31 Octobre et la nuit suivante, dans les quartiers isolés.

9. Les jours suivants les autorités ont fait preuve de sentiments d'humanité en aidant à rechercher les cadavres, à distribuer des soins aux blessés ainsi qu'aux personnes sans ressources ; en s'occupant, enfin, de retrouver les objets volés.

Erzeroum, le 26 Octobre (7 Novembre), 1895.

(Signé) V. MAXIMOW, *Consul-Général de Russie.*
A. MONACO, *Consul d'Italie.*
H. A. CUMBERBATCH, *Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique.*
ROQUEFERRIER, *Vice-Consul de France.*

No. 548.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 818.)
Constantinople, November 19, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 655 of the 11th November, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum, recommending the removal of the Armenian Archbishop of that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 548.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

(Secret.)
Erzeroum, November 8, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram of this day's date, I have the honour to state as follows:—

Mgr. Ghévant Shishmanian, Metropolitan Archbishop of Erzeroum, was formerly looked upon as a Turcophil. Some months ago he changed his tactics, presumably under instructions from the present Patriarch, and he favoured the "Pashnaktzagan" organization, but without showing any leaning towards the "Hintchakists." Recently, however, he has been accused, even by Armenians, of submitting to the influence of the latter, more through fear, probably, than through approval of their reckless plans.

His conduct of late has certainly not been judicious. When Shakir Pasha arrived here as Inspector-General for the Armenian vilayets, Mgr. Shishmanian received instructions from the Patriarch not to recognize the Marshal's mission, but, obeying the orders of the "Hintchakists," he abstained from calling on his Excellency as he should have done.

The withdrawal at the same time of all the Armenian members of the Administrative Council and Tribunals, &c., though due to the threats of the revolutionary party, was laid to his charge, and, in fact, he was looked upon by the authorities as the chief conspirator.

The publication in the newspapers of his telegraphic appeal to Her Majesty's Secretary of State made his position still worse.

He has made no attempt, either before or since the disorders of the 30th ultimo, to reconcile himself with the authorities, but rather takes up a defiant attitude, which is not conducive to allay the suspicions of the Mussulmans, or to strengthen the confidence in him of his community.

He remains shut up in his private residence, as he thinks his life is in danger.

Both Shakir Pasha and the Vali are personally ill-disposed towards him, owing to his conduct towards the former, and his relations with the authorities are suspended.

Under these circumstances, I have thought it my duty, in the interests of all concerned, to suggest that this Prelate should be quietly recalled, if only temporarily, in order to remove the suspicions of the authorities, which are shared by the Mussulman population, and to facilitate the execution of the contemplated reforms.

Personally, I am on the best terms with Mgr. Shishmanian, and I will regret his departure if it is decided upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 549.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 820.)
Constantinople, November 19, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 757 of the 1st instant I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Damascus, reporting on the disturbed state of the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 549.

Acting Consul Meshaka to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,
Damascus, November 6, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to state that since my Report to Her Majesty's Embassy, in my despatch of the 18th ultimo, several acts of brigandage have been committed by lawless people, mostly of Druses in the districts of Wady-el-Ajam, Rasheya, and Hasbeya.

Complaints were made to the local authorities, but no due notice was taken. The roads have become more dangerous to pass through, and the Christian inhabitants are fearing more evil consequences if such a state of things is not remedied.

I beg to inclose herewith copy of a Memorandum received from two Irish Presbyterian missionaries, who have just returned from a tour, in a part of the troubled districts, reporting on the subject, describing the state of feelings amongst the Christians, and stating that they are fleeing in large numbers to the Lebanon.

Disturbances of a more serious nature have also taken place in the Hauran. The Druses have lately raided villages, which had been evacuated in fear, by the Moslem owners. The Druses have carried away what they found, and it is reported burned, the places and proceeded to Harak. There a serious fight occurred. A Kurdish officer who happened to be there with a few soldiers, did not resist the Druses and left, on the plea that he had no orders to fire. Soon after the Mutessarif, a Kurd, came in, with a few soldiers, and joined the villagers, and it has been reported that the Mutessarif, together with his mare, were wounded, and three of his men killed. Several Druses and Hauranese were also killed and wounded, but the number is unknown yet.

The Haurauese are now assembling at Busr-el-Harir. The vilayet dispatched yesterday one battalion of cavalry and one battalion of infantry, and it is stated that the Circassians, Metualis, and Kurds have become excited against the Druses, but it is unknown yet whether they would proceed to the Hauran or to Mejdal Shams and neighbourhood to fight against the Druses.

Yesterday an Imperial Iradé has been received calling out the Redifs for the years 304 to 311, and it has been said, with the object of forming twelve battalions, to subdue the Druses.

The Reserves are being conducted to-day voluntarily by their friends, in small groups, to the military barracks, accompanied by a crowded procession, and three sacred banners, with several Muezzins, shouting and repeating the three following expressions:—

God is great!

Victory to the religion of Mohammed!

The religion of Mohammed sprang up by the sword!

These expressions alarmed some of the Christians in town, and some of them closed their shops, fearing ill-treatment. It is, however, necessary to add that the Administration of the police authorities has improved since the dismissal of the Chief of that Department, referred to in my despatch to Her Majesty's Embassy of the 26th September last, and the arrival of his successor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASIF MESHAKA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 549.

Memorandum from two Irish Presbyterian Missionaries.

GREAT fear prevails among the Christians of Ain-esh-Shara. This village lies on the east side of Mount Hermon, and contains over 1,000 inhabitants, the half of whom are Druses. The latter have recently adopted a very threatening attitude towards their Christian neighbours, stealing their flocks and cattle, gathering the crops and destroying the trees on their land, roughly collecting any old debt that may be owing to them, and openly conducting themselves as though they had no fear of the Government. The Turkish authorities pay no attention to complaints that are brought to them, and indeed the police and other officials have not ventured into the region of this village for some time. Many Christians of all sects have left their homes and taken refuge in the Zahleh district of the Lebanon. Those who remain are holding themselves in readiness to leave at a moment's notice.

Rasheya is a town of 6,000 inhabitants on the west side of Mount Hermon. One-third of the population are Druses. The latter are acting in a very threatening manner to the Christians. On some days they go through their own part of the town, in large parties, carrying their sacred banner, firing guns, and singing warlike fanatical songs. The horrors which took place in Rasheya in 1860 are still fresh in the minds of the Christians, who have been thrown into a state of terror by the wild performances of the Druses. Christians who are caught outside of the town alone, day or night, are roughly threatened, and in many cases beaten and robbed by the bad characters who infest all the roads. Although a Kaïmakam resides in Rasheya and a company of soldiers is stationed there, the Druses openly insult the authorities, and the latter are wholly unable to attend to any complaint which may be lodged with them against a Druse. As a consequence of this weakness on the part of the Government, and of the violent conduct of the Druses, the Christians are fleeing from Rasheya and other villages in great numbers, and, if the disturbances continue, all who can possibly leave will abandon their homes and remove to the Lebanon.

November 6, 1895.

No. 550.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 25.)

(No. 821.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 19, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout respecting the alarming state of affairs at Mount Hermon and in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 550.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. Herbert.

Beyrout, November 10, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to the inclosed despatch from the Acting British Consul at Damascus, I have the honour to inform you that during a recent tour in the Lebanon I met several American missionaries returning from an inspection of their schools at Mount Hermon and in the Hauran, who gave most alarming accounts of the state of affairs in those districts.

The reports received from Damascus confirm their statements, and there is no doubt that the disturbances will increase in gravity if not immediately suppressed by an armed force.

If the Governor-General of Syria had exhibited more firmness in dealing with the Druses on past occasions, they would never have dared to assume their present lawless and defiant attitude towards the authorities. The Druses have now brought on themselves the vengeance of Mussulmans for their raid on villages in the Hauran belonging to

people of that faith, and it is reported that many inhabitants of Damascus have volunteered to join the troops proceeding to the Hauran.

The Druses of the Lebanon are tranquil, and have not, as far as I am aware, participated in any way with their brethren of the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 551.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 25.)

(No. 822.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 19, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the state of affairs in the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 551.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Trebizond, November* 12, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a letter from Dr. Jewett giving an account of the ravages committed in the districts south, south-east, and north-east of Sivas.

The following is a copy of a telegram from him on the same subject, which he sent me on the 10th instant:—

"Up to last night condition remains as described in my reports of the 30th and 5th. Now repressive measures are reported ordered."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 551.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Dear Consul Longworth, *Sivas, November* 5, 1895.

HELL reigns, and the Turks are making it certain that there will be no Armenian majority in the districts east of here.

As usual, I am obliged to depend chiefly on information derived from Armenian sources, but I think the open telegrams sent to the Armenian Archbishop indicate that the condition of affairs is bad enough, after making due allowance for exaggeration.

The translated copies of these telegrams, as given to me by the Archbishop, are:—

"A l'Évêque Arménien, Sivas; "*De Gurun, le* 19 (31) *Octobre*, 1895.

"Sous des prétextes bien vagues et sans fondement, le Vékil du Caïmacam de Gurun a provoqué les habitants des alentours, par conséquent Hadji Emin Aga, Notable d'Albistan, a parcouru les villages en invitant d'exterminer les Arméniens. Gozmoglou Suleimani, habitant de Kedeké; Magara et Menish Kelia d'Almali, dépendance d'Albistan, accompagnés d'une vingtaine d'hommes armés de leurs villages, ont attaqué Kiridoglou Serkis et ses compagnons. Ils l'ont assassiné près de notre ville et gaspillé ses animaux. Les communications sont devenues impossibles avec Azizieh et autres. Nos biens et vie courent grand danger. Nous vous supplions des mesures de secours immédiates.

"Le Vicaire d'Évêque Arménien de Gurun,
(Signé) "GABARET."

"*De Karahissar, le* 19 (31) *Octobre*, 1895.

"Il y a eu un accident ('voukouit') avant-hier à Tamzara et aux villages environants. Il y eut trouvé deux prêtres et quatorze autres personnes assassinés. Les autorités nous ont ordonné d'y envoyer un prêtre pour les enterrer. Par suite des attaques d'hier sur les villages de Yaydji et Pouscid, à peine un petit nombre d'habitants se sont difficilement sauvés et arrivés dans la ville. Dans ces conditions il ne reste plus un village Arménien sans danger. En dehors on continue et réitère les attaques. Si l'on ne leur porte pas du secours comme on a fait à la ville, le reste des habitants serait même péri de faim sans aucun doute. D'après des nouvelles rumeurs, les pertes et les mauvaises intentions sont nombreuses. Sous les auspices de Sa Majesté Impériale et par les soins pris par nos autorités locales, nous sommes encore avec les habitants d'ici protégés dans l'église et les khans.

"Le Vicaire de l'Évêque,
(Signé) "PÈRE RÉTÉOS."

"*Divrik, le* 21 *Octobre* (2 *Novembre*), 1895.

"Hier on a complètement pillé et détruit le village de Kesmé. Le médecin Municipal, Kaspar Effendi, qui était envoyé à l'examen, se trouve parmi les blessés. Pingan est rigoureusement cerné. On y abonde continuellement des plombs. S'ils ne se rendent pas bientot un grand massacre et une destruction sont imminents. Le Capitaine Moustafa Aga, envoyé défenseur des villages, se cache avec ses troupes. Khournavil est aussi assiégé. Les quatre brigands capturés par les hommes du Caïmacam ont officiellement annoncé à celui-ci que les brigands, fort de plus de 300, se trouvent près de Kesmé et Satondar, dans le district de Kotchkiri, et qu'ils ont reçu des ordres du 'Centre' (Merkez) pour détruire les villages Arméniens et massacrer leurs habitants. Attaqués dans plusieurs endroits, quoique nous soyons contents des mesures courageuses prises par le Caïmacam, mais la troupe de protection n'est pas suffisante. Les brigands déjà fort de 1,000 personnes vont toujours en augmentant. Nous vous prions instamment un remède immédiat.

"Évêque Arménien de Divrik,
(Signé) "MAMPRÉ."

"*Divrik, le* 3 *Novembre*, 1895.

"On a de nouveau attaqué Zimara et on y entrant on a pillé et détruit l'église. Même chose pour l'église de Kesmé. Depuis vingt-quatre heures, le massacre, le pillage, l'incendie, et la destruction continuent à Pingan. Après avoir gaspillé les moutons d'Armoutak et de Bergam, on les a cerné. Le danger de la ville est devenu imminent. Aucun résultat de secours que nous demandâmes depuis quinze jours. Au secours pour la chère tête de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan . . . .

"Évêque de Divrik,
(Signé) "MAMPRÉ."

"*Divrik, le* 4 *Novembre*, 1895.

Pingan est complètement détruit. On menace de continuer le massacre par un troisième assaut. On attaque Armoutak et Bergam; Odom et Arshom aussi assiégés. La ville seule reste. Notre communauté est jusqu'à présent et toujours restera fidèle aux lois et ordonnances en vigueur. Je vous en assure et réponds. Au secours!

"Évêque de Divrik,
(Signé) "MAMPRÉ."

Reports have come also by letters, and messengers indicating that large numbers of villages are suffering from plunder and assault all through the eastern part of this province even within five or six hours of Sivas.

It appears that all the Armenian villages of Soushehri (Enderes) district have been attacked, more or less entirely burnt and plundered. Many people have fled to the mountains.

The Vali says the trouble at Karahissar and Enderes was all due to the Armenians. At Karahissar he reports that order and confidence has been established.

From different persons who have come from Enderes and neighbourhood, I judge that the affair was about as follows:—

The Turks of Enderes heard that Daniel Chaoush and his Armenian brigands were going to attack Enderes. Turks killed an Armenian and his wife, son, and daughter at Yeni Keyy, and their corpses were brought into Enderes.

October 26.—This excited the Armenians.

October 27.—Turks carried off 1,200 sheep belonging to the priest of Enderes. The Armenians complained to the Kaïmakam, but he told them he could do nothing about it. Twenty or thirty Armenians went out to recover the sheep; they failed in the enterprise, and thirteen of them were killed.

On the 28th, a company of about 500 Mahommedans came to Enderes from the neighbouring villages, armed, led by Hodjas, carrying a banner, and they marched about the town chanting like Dervishes.

About the same time some Turkish horsemen came and demanded admission to the khan. The khandji refused. These horsemen began to fire. Everybody was excited and frightened. The Turks cried out that the Armenians were attacking them. At this moment a company of soldiers arrived.

The Kaïmakam mistook the firing of the horsemen for an attack on the part of the Armenians. The soldiers were ordered to attack the Armenians. The Armenians shot at the Turks from their houses. Some of the principal Armenian houses and the market was set on fire, and the Armenians were shot and burned to death.

I am told 100 to 110 Armenians and seven Turks were killed. Many houses were plundered. Many persons fled to the mountains, and have been suffering much from cold and hunger. Some of the wounded Armenians are said to have been thrown into the fire and burnt up. It is said that the Kaïmakam greatly regrets his hasty and unfortunate action. The people who attacked Enderes and its adjoining eighteen villages are said to be Turks and Lazes from the neighbouring villages. It appears that flocks and herds have been carried off from many Armenian villages, and a very considerable number of Armenian villages all through the eastern part of the vilayet have been plundered and more or less destroyed.

I am told, on a pretty good authority, that all the Armenian villages on the road between Enderes and Erzinghian have been destroyed, and that the Armenians have fled with their arms and families to the mountains.

I hear that at Armoudan, even the school-children were killed, and the school and church burnt.

The story, as I hear, of Gurghenez, is queer. It is a Turkish village with only a few Armenian tradesmen temporarily stopping there. The Kaïmakam of Gurghenez telegraphed to that of Zara that 600 Armenians had attacked the town and were killing the Mahommedans. The Kaïmakam of Zara hurried to Gurghenez with his men, and found that twenty-eight Armenians had been killed by fourteen men, who came to the town dressed like Georgians, and the property of the Armenians in the hands of the Turks. No Turks were killed!

The depredations in the Divrik region appear to be done by Dersim Kurds and local Kurds and Turks. The Kurds, it is said from several sources, claim that they are acting under orders from "high quarters."

I think about 200 redifs and 200 new zaptiehs have been sent to the disturbed régions. They appear to avoid the Kurds, and not to punish the Turks. It is said to-day that men called to go have refused.

The Vali has had sixty Circassians come to the city from Azizieh to act as a "neutral police force" to keep the peace. This rather alarmed the Armenians at first, but they are getting used to it now. There is apprehension on all sides.

It is high time that rigorous and effective measures were taken to remedy this bad state of affairs.

Anything better than an impotent Government would make quick work of suppressing such disorders.

The refugees whom I have seen say they do not mind losing their property if their lives and the lives of their wives and children can be made secure.

The Ambassadors will doubtless be told that proper action has been taken, and the troubles are all over. But present indications are, that the troubles are spreading and increasing beyond the control of the miserable force that is sent out to establish order, and gets its pay by plundering the people it is sent out to protect.

The excitement at Gurun seems to have grown out of a demonstration on the part of the Armenians. It appears that they heard that the reforms were accepted, they formed a procession headed by a flag (English flag, the Vali says), sang patriotic

songs, and fired their guns and pistols. Some of them went to the Government House and demanded to know why a refugee (a brigand or revolutionist) from Sasun was put in prison. The arrival of the Circassians seems to have had a quieting effect, and nothing serious is reported from the city.

The Archbishop sent a letter to the Armenians of Garun by a private messenger, giving them most excellent advice about being quiet and peaceable. The messenger was arrested on the road and the Bishop's letter destroyed.

The Bishop has good reason to believe that his telegrams to the Patriarch reporting recent outrages have not been sent or delivered. After sending long telegrams on the 29th October and the 1st and 2nd November, telling of the outrages and dangers in the villages, he received a telegram from the Patriarch, dated the 2nd November, making no mention of the Bishop's telegrams, reprimanding the Armenians for disturbing the public peace.

The Vali says that a letter sent by Daniel Chiboush, in which he said he was coming with 100 well-armed Armenians to attack the Mahommedans of Enderes, and instructing the Armenians at Enderes to be ready to assist, was intercepted by the Government. He says Armenians have reported to him that the troubles at Enderes were all due to certain Armenians, whose names they give in a telegram.

In some villages the Armenians have been protected by their Turkish neighbours.

It is reported to me, on what I regard as good authority, that, when it was noised abroad that there were disturbances at Amassia about the 16th October, some 2,000 Turks from the neighbouring villages assembled in and about the city to have a hand in the riots, which fortunately did not occur. It seems to me significant as indicating the spirit and conduct of the Turkish population.

The Vali says the Armenians of Zeitoun and Hadjin are making serious demonstrations, and that they have cut the telegraph wires running to and from their district.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) M. A. JEWETT.

No. 552.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 25.)

(No. 823.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 19, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the depredations committed by Lazes in the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 552.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Herbert.

Trebizond, November 14, 1895.

Sir,

ON the day following the massacre a number of Oif and Surmeneh Lazes, 500 to 1,000 strong, armed with rifles, advanced on Trebizond. They were stopped from entering the town by a company of troops, a feat on the part of the authorities which shows where there is a will there is a way of preventing disturbances. This, indeed, becomes convincing enough, from the fact that Midhat Bey Shatirzadeh at Shana, through his own influence, solely, chivalrously, and successfully protected the Armenian villages around him from these hordes of ruffians bent on the path of murder and plunder.

Unhappily, however, turned back from there and from here, they took the direction of Baiburt along the Erzeroum road and over the short route of Kolat Dagh, attacking the Armenian hamlets on the way, sparing only such communities as, through their priests and Headsmen dressed as Moslems, professed their conversion to Islamism.

Terrible reports of bloodshed, rapine, and abduction perpetrated by these marauders have reached Trebizond from Baiburt and its surrounding villages; horrors, an account of which will no doubt be given by Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum. Suffice it for

me to say, that the greater part of that region appears to have been entirely depopulated; at Varzahan alone a Turkish muleteer having come across some 400 corpses of men, women, and children, strewn on the road.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 553.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 25.)

(No. 825.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 19, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter which I have received from the Armenian Patriarch, calling my attention to the massacres of Armenians which have been taking place in the Turkish provinces, and begging for the intervention of the Embassy to put a stop to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 553.

The Armenian Patriarch to Mr. Herbert.

Patriarcat Arménien, Constantinople,
M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *le* 3 (15) *Novembre*, 1895.

LE massacre a entrepris désormais sa course terrible et folle à travers les provinces habitées par les Arméniens sous ses formes les plus tragiques.

Aux effusions de sang qui se sont produites à Trébizonde, à Bayhourt, à Kémakh, à Ak-hissar, à Marache, succèdent de nouvelles, avec accompagnement de pillages et d'incendies qui, au seuil de l'hiver, déjà survenu dans ces contrées, puisent les populations de leurs provisions et de leurs refuges, et les vouent, à peine échappées au fer et aux balles, à une autre sorte de mort cruelle.

Erzeroum, Bitlis, Diarbékir, Karpouth, Ourfa, Tchemich-Gazak, Chabine-Kara-Hissar, Divrik, Erzindjan, Eghine, et un grand nombre de leurs villages d'alentour sont devenu présentement le théâtre de massacres et de ruines. Van reste sans protection devant les méfaits et les incursions du régiment Hamidié, et est rempli de paysans dépouillés qui sont sans vêtement et sans nourriture. De même, Tchassaindjak, Gurine, Terdjan, Hadjine, et les villages environnants de Sivas et d'Arapguir cernés par ces hordes armées comptent déjà des victimes et des faits de pillages, et se trouvent sous la terreur d'un prochain massacre général.

Segherd, Mouche, Amassia, Tokat, Ordou, Samsoun, Baffra, Adana, et Aintab sont en proie à la même menace, et le malheur est attendu d'heure en heure. Tout près de la capitale, les villages d'Ismidt sont investis, leurs communications sont interceptées, et ils sont exposés au danger de la faim.

De tous les côtés on implore secours en suppliant secours pour sauver d'une mort affreuse des milliers d'être humains, qui sont égorgés comme un troupeau, secours matériel pour leur procurer du pain.

Des mois auparavant, ainsi que nous nous étions empressé d'en faire part à votre Excellence, des préparatifs se faisaient au grand jour, et des menaces se laissaient entendre, visant la suppression de l'élément Chrétien, dont le crime et l'impudence consistent à avoir suscité par ses misères sans exemple, la compassion des Grandes Puissances et nations Chrétiennes de l'Europe.

Aujourd'hui cet horrible projet est mis en exécution, partout selon un système uniforme, et avec une audace n'ayant d'égale que l'adresse qui a su créer un prétexte pour décliner la responsabilité de ces effusions de sang devant le monde Chrétien.

Les informations qui nous sont parvenues établissent que les pauvres victimes n'ont point donné le moindre motif au massacre, comme on s'ingénie à le démontrer. D'ailleurs, est-il possible de penser qu'elles aient voulu appeler sur elles cette calamité, elles qui la prévoyaient en son temps, et remplies de consternation, imploraient auprès des Consuls Européens eux-mêmes, dans les endroits où il en existait, qu'on la détournât de leurs têtes, elles enfin qui se voyaient dépouillées des moyens de se défendre en face d'une populace armée de pied en cap.

C'est ainsi que sous ce prétexte, qui sert à couvrir comme d'un vernis les crimes les plus effroyables, on coule à flots le sang des innocents sans qu'on épargne ni le paysan ni le citadin; et ceux qui ont pu échapper remplissent les prisons. Tout cela, par une amère coïncidence, juste au moment où des réformes sont proclamées, et la sécurité est promise enfin au peuple Arménien après un long martyre.

Il nous est impossible en tant que Chef Spirituel de ce peuple abandonné d'envisager d'œil indifférent son extermination dans ces circonstances tragiques.

En nous abritant sous l'infinie miséricorde de Dieu, nous prenons la liberté de recourir encore une fois à votre Excellence pour renouveler notre demande consignée dans notre écrit du 16 (28) Octobre dernier. Nous osons requérir instamment les bons offices de votre Excellence afin que le nécessaire soit fait, en vue de mettre un terme prompt aux effusions de sang, et d'établir sur des bases solides une complète sécurité.

Après que ce résultat serait obtenu, nous aurions prié également votre Excellence qu'une enquête impartiale fût ouverte de façon à assurer le juste châtiment de ceux qui avaient donné lieu au massacre, s'ils existent, comme de ceux qui auraient ordonné et exécuté ces atrocités inouïes.

En confiant votre Excellence à la garde du Très-Haut, nous la prions d'agréer l'assurance, &c.

Le Patriarche des Arméniens de Turquie,
(Signé) MADTÉOS.

No. 554.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 827.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 20, 1895.*

AS your Lordship is aware, the Ministry was changed shortly after the six Embassies made the representations respecting the state of the Asiatic Provinces, communicated to your Lordship in my telegram No. 604 of the 4th instant.

On the 9th instant it was decided to repeat these representations to the new Minister for Foreign Affairs, which was accordingly done by my colleagues and myself on the 11th November. Tewfik Pasha replied that an answer was drafted, and that we should receive it almost immediately. The same evening I had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 216, containing a message to the Sultan, which I caused to be translated into Turkish, and presented to His Imperial Majesty through his First Secretary on the morning of the next day.

His Imperial Majesty replied that the only explanation he could offer of the situation and of your Lordship's language, was that, on the one hand, his orders were not obeyed by the Valis, and, on the other, were not communicated to the Embassies by the Porte. He would send the Minister of Foreign Affairs to me to explain the measures he had taken, or was still taking.

For the last month His Majesty had been sending numberless instructions to the provincial authorities, bidding them prevent outbreaks, and punish the guilty, without distinction of creed. He held them responsible for what had occurred in their provinces; had told them he had no more confidence in them, and intended to send Aides-de-camp to inquire into their conduct. He could but express his deep sorrow and pain at what had occurred, and the only explanation he could give was that the movement was well organized through a very large extent of country, and it was impossible to deal with it quickly.

In accordance with this promise, the Minister for Foreign Affairs called on me the same evening to inform me of the measures which His Majesty was taking to restore order. They were as follows:—

One hundred and twenty battalions of reserves have been called out.

The Valis have received categorical orders to punish any Moslems who attack Armenians, and not to ill-treat the latter.

Special Commissioners are being sent to various parts of Armenia to see that the provincial authorities obey these instructions.

The sufferers from the recent disturbances, whether Christian or Moslem, are to be housed and fed at the expense of the State.

His Excellency also said that a telegram had been received from Shakir Pasha, stating that perfect order now prevailed, and eulogizing the conduct of the Hamidié regiments who had protected the Armenians against the Mahommedans.

The same communication was made to the French and Russian Ambassadors, but by order of the Sultan, who is determined to ignore, and hopes to destroy the union of the six Powers, no communication was made to the Austrian, German, and Italian Ambassadors, who thus remained without any reply to the representations they had made on the 4th and 11th instant.

It was accordingly decided that the British, French, and Russian Embassies should send their Dragomans to the Porte, and state through them that they could not consider they had had any reply to their identic representations of the 11th instant, until all six Embassies had received similar communications from the Minister for Foreign Affairs. This was done on the 17th November, and the French Dragoman added that in M. Cambon's opinion the Porte had committed a great mistake, and incurred the displeasure of the three other Ambassadors.

It is said that an Iradé has been issued, instructing the Porte to reply in writing to the six Embassies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 555.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 828.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 21, 1895.*

ON the 12th instant I received a telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, informing me that the three police officers, Reshid, Iskender, and Hajji Fehim, mentioned in Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 660 of the 9th October, had been reinstated, and sent to Bitlis. As your Lordship is aware, Her Majesty's Embassy had insisted on the dismissal of these men on account of the gross cruelty and rapacity shown by them in collecting taxes, and Mr. Hampson reported that their reappointment was fatal to British influence, and had produced the worst impression in Mush, as being the first fruits of the reforms.

I, therefore, sent a message to the Sultan through His Majesty's First Secretary, giving a brief account of the crimes of the officers, and insisting on their immediate redismissal.

On the 15th instant the Sultan's Chief Secretary sent word to me to say that the three officers in question should not be reappointed, but recalled in this direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 556.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 828 A.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 21, 1895.*

OWING to the strong language recently used to the Sultan by the German Ambassador, who hinted at the possibility of his dethronement, and informed him that this was possibly the last warning he would receive, His Imperial Majesty expressed a wish to have the advice of the Representatives of the six Powers as to what steps he should take to restore confidence.

A meeting of Ambassadors was accordingly called on the afternoon of the 18th instant, at which it was decided to send the following message through the Doyen, Baron Calice:—

"The only means of restoring confidence is to put a stop to the massacres, which we are convinced the Sultan can do if he is sincere in his professions. It is not for us to indicate the measures to be taken, but we venture to make the following suggestions:—

"That the functionaries responsible for the massacres should be dismissed.

"That an inquiry should be held as to the participation of soldiers in the outrages, and the guilty be punished.

"That the orders recently sent to the Valis and Military Commanders should be published, and assurances given that previous orders have been cancelled.

"That a Hatt should be issued by the Sultan ordering his subjects to obey his wishes, and abstain from creating disturbances."

Baron Calice was also charged to say that, in view of the general alarm, each Embassy was sending for a second "stationnaire," and that Firmans for their passage would be requested the next day.

It was further suggested that Military Commanders should be assigned to the different districts of Constantinople, and be held responsible for the safety of the Christian population.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter from Baron Calice reporting the reply made by Tewfik Pasha to this message.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 556.

Baron Calice to Mr. Herbert.

Constantinople, le 18 Novembre, 1895.

Mon cher Collègue,

J'Ai fait part à Tewfik Pacha de nos suggestions en lui laissant prendre quelques notes. Il n'a soulevé d'objections contre aucun point, ayant plutôt l'air de trouver le tout parfaitement fondé et en règle. Il ne prévoyait non plus de difficultés quant à l'admission des stationnaires mais ce qui l'intéressait le plus c'était de savoir si la présence d'un second stationnaire pour chaque Ambassade empêcherait l'arrivée des flottes. J'ai cru devoir le rassurer sur ce point en lui disant que certes le redoublement des stationnaires calmerait beaucoup les appréhensions et qu'à moins de nouveaux dangers pour la sécurité des étrangers et des Chrétiens, la venue de nouvelles forces navales ne me paraissait aucunement probable.

Tewfik Pacha a beaucoup insisté sur l'efficacité—certaine d'après lui—des mesures que la Porte venait de prendre pour l'apaisement des Provinces d'Anatolie, tout en regrettant que tout cela n'ait pas été fait plus tôt. Comme une preuve de l'énergie et de l'impartialité du Gouvernement Impérial, il m'a communiqué un télégramme de Shakir Pacha, daté de Erzeroum, 18 Novembre, et portant que "Hussein Pacha, de Haideranli (un chef Kurde redoutable), a été arrêté d'après les lois militaires en vigueur, et qu'il sera jugé bientôt," qu'en outre, "il a ordonné que toutes choses pillées soient rendues."

Tewfik Pacha m'a prié de porter "ce fait important" à la connaissance de messieurs mes collègues.

Je vous prie, mon cher collègue, de communiquer ces lignes à l'Ambassadeur de France, avec prière de les faire passer aux autres collègues.

Votre tout dévoué,
(Signé) CALICE.

No. 557.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 829.)

Pera, November 21, 1895.

My Lord,

TEWFIK PASHA called on me this afternoon and informed me that the Sultan desired to express his thanks for the advice tendered him by Baron Calice on behalf of the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople.

His Excellency went on to say that the instruction to the Valis which we had asked for had already been communicated to the several Embassies, and a list of the functionaries at places where disturbances had broken out was being prepared. As regards the publication of a Hatt, His Majesty was of opinion that it was unnecessary, as the instructions to the Valis which had been communicated to us had all been published in the newspapers, and Her Majesty's subjects would be able to judge from them how much in earnest he was in his desire to put an end to the disturbances in the provinces. There had been now no fresh news from the disturbed districts for three days, and this proved how effective were the measures which His Majesty had taken to that end.

I expressed the hope to Tewfik Pasha that the Sultan would not oppose the grant of Firmans for the passage up the Dardanelles of the additional "stationnaires," but his Excellency evaded the question by stating that His Majesty had not yet received the Takrirs made by the different Embassies for the Firman.

I have the honour to inclose herewith copies of the instructions sent by the Porte to the Valis and Military Commissioners above referred to, and also of the comments made on them in the Turkish paper "Sabah."

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 557.

Telegram addressed to the Governors-General of the Vilayets of Trebizond, Erzeroum, Bitlis, Van, Diarbekir, Mamouret-ul-Aziz, Sivas, Adana, and Aleppo, dated November 3, 1895 (o. s.).

LES Commandants de Brigades, en expédiant des corps volants pour la répression des désordres surgis dans leur circonscription, lanceront une Proclamation aux populations pour engager ceux qui tentent de troubler à main armée la sécurité publique à renoncer à leur attitude et à s'abstenir de tous faits qui seraient contraires aux hautes volontés de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Ils auront à sévir immédiatement par les armes contre ceux qui ne se conformeraient pas à cette injonction et s'empresseront d'empêcher en faisant stationner des troupes sur divers points, tout mouvement des émeutiers pour attaquer à main armée les bourgs et villages.

Si des meurtres et actes d'insurrection venaient à être commis inopinément dans la sphère d'évolution d'un corps volant les dits Commandants auront à en poursuivre immédiatement les auteurs sans leur faire aucune sommation.

Le Commandant-en-chef du 4e Corps de l'Armée Impériale aura à prêter au moyen des troupes du dit corps, l'assistance nécessaire aux Commandants de brigade susmentionnés qui se trouveront sous ses ordres en vue d'assurer le succès de leur tâche.

Le Séraskérat a été invité à transmettre des ordres télégraphiques dans ce sens tant au Muchir du dit corps d'armée qu'aux Commandants précités.

La ligne de conduite à suivre par les autorités civiles à l'égard des agitateurs ayant été précédemment indiquée par le télégraphe, conformément à un Iradé Impérial, vous aurez à faire à qui de droit des recommandations dans le sens du dit télégramme Circulaire avant l'envoi de troupes pour la répression des actes attentatoires à la sécurité publique.

Ces dispositions ayant été revêtues de la sanction Impériale et des instructions en conséquence transmises au Séraskérat et aux autres Valis, je vous engage encore une fois à vous y conformer strictement en ce qui concerne votre vilayet.

Notre auguste Maître désirant vivement que l'ordre soit rétabli au plus tôt dans les localités où il a été troublé, que la vie, l'honneur, et les biens de tous soient sauvegardés et que tous faits et actes contraires à la justice et à l'équité soient empêchés, vous aurez à veiller jour et nuit à assurer la réalisation de la volonté souveraine en mettant sans retard fin aux désordres.

Inclosure 2 in No. 557.

Telegram addressed to the Major-General of the 4th Army Corps and to the Military Commanders of Aleppo, Bitlis, Adana, Trébizond, Diarbekir, Sivas, Mamouret-ul-Aziz, and in other parts of Asiatic Turkey, dated November 5, 1895 (o. s.).

LA volonté formelle de notre auguste Maître étant que l'on veille plus que jamais et d'une façon tout à fait spéciale au maintien de la tranquillité du pays de façon à prévenir absolument tous actes tels qu'incendies, menées séditieuses, effusion de sang ou attaques de la part d'une classe de la population contre l'autre ou contre les Consulats et sujets étrangers, des instructions en conséquence ont été déjà transmises aux fonctionnaires de l'Administration Civile. Conformément à un Ordre Impérial, les autorités militaires doivent se concerter avec les Valis et les Mutessarifs pour tâcher d'assurer la tranquillité publique et veiller strictement à ce que les officiers et soldats de l'armée impériale agissent dans les limites des règlements militaires en s'abstenant soigneusement de se porter à des actes pouvant provoquer des plaintes, tout manquement à ces prescriptions, toute négligence et tous procédés contraires à la discipline devant entraîner une grave responsabilité.

Telegram addressed to the Vilayets of Van, Bitlis, Erzeroum, Aleppo, Diarbekir, Trebizond, Sivas, and Mamouret-ul-Aziz, dated November 5, 1895 (v. s.).

Bien que les Iradés Impériaux itératifs qui vous ont été déjà communiqués prescrivent l'adoption dans votre vilayet de mesures propres à prévenir tout acte pouvant troubler l'ordre public ainsi que toute effusion de sang, et d'empêcher qu'une classe de la population attaque l'autre ou que des actes contraires à la justice soient commis, de pareils cas continuent cependant à se produire. L'une des attributions les plus importantes des Valis étant de maintenir et d'assurer la tranquillité dans les provinces, je viens, conformément aux ordres formels de notre auguste Maître, vous prévenir que si après que le présent télégramme vous sera parvenu on laissait se produire des méfaits tels qu'incendie, menées séditieuses, perturbation de l'ordre public ou effusion de sang, un pareil manquement aux devoirs ne pourrait en aucune façon être pardonné et entraînerait une grave et absolue responsabilité. Cette responsabilité devant aussi s'étendre aux Mutessarifs et aux Caïmacams vous devez vous concerter aussi avec ces Commandants pour l'adoption de dispositions en conséquence. Vous aurez surtout à veiller avec la plus grande vigilance à la protection des Consulats et des sujets étrangers de façon à les mettre à l'abri de tout danger et à écarter tout motif de plainte de leur part. Tous les coupables devront être arrêtés et punis conformément à la loi.

Vous télégraphierez en clair toutes les vingt-quatre heures, au Ministère de l'Intérieur, au Séraskérat, au Grand Vizirat, et au Palais Impérial la situation du vilayet.

Inclosure 3 in No. 557.

Extract from the "Sabah" of November 8 (20), 1895.

(Translation.)

THE following is a continuation of our previous articles respecting the action of the Imperial Government in putting an end to the troubles in certain Anatolian vilayets and restoring public order.

It is well known that the scene of these disorders was chiefly the district of the 4th and 5th Corps d'Armée. Now as the corps d'armée in question consist of four brigades, and that, besides these, eight brigades of Redifs have been called under arms, the troops in those parts are amply sufficient to prevent any disorders. Moreover, the Imperial Government is determined to use its troops for this purpose, so as to speedily re-establish order, His Imperial Majesty's chief desire being that all his subjects should enjoy security for their lives, honour, and property. The necessary measures to this end have consequently been determined upon, and the requisite orders and instructions have been sent to the vilayets in question. These may be summarized as follows:—

The fundamental duty of the military forces being to put a stop at once to all crimes and attacks on the part of all who, impelled by private animosity or a desire for vengeance, seek to destroy the peace and institute massacres, either amongst themselves or by making an armed attack on the administrative or military authorities,

[Here follow the instructions communicated by the Sublime Porte.]

It is hoped that these instructions, whose wisdom is undeniable, will be properly appreciated by those who have given rise to these disorders, and that they will return to peaceful pursuits, and thereby render themselves worthy of the Imperial clemency.

No. 558.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 830. Very Confidential.)

Constantinople, November 21, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a Confidential Memorandum addressed to me by Colonel Chermside respecting the number of troops which Turkey could send to reinforce the Dardanelles in from one to six weeks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 558.

Memorandum.

The Estimated Capacity of Turkish Military Organization to reinforce the Garrisons of the Dardanelles and Gallipoli Peninsula.

(Strictly Confidential.)

THESE garrisons normally consist of three regiments of fortress artillery of four, four, and two battalions respectively, and a battalion or half-battalion of infantry at Gallipoli.

The four battalion regiments are stationed respectively in the forts and batteries of the European and Asiatic shore defences, and the two battalion regiment in the lines of Boulair.

The regiments have been recently reinforced by 500 to 600 artillery men in all.

The following estimates are based on rather complicated data, and in my opinion represent the fair average probability of Turkish power of reinforcement by the different routes.

It is assumed that the garrison of Yildiz Kiosk and its precincts and environs will remain untouched. The Ordous considered as available to contribute reinforcements are Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

If unrestricted sea communication outside the Dardanelles remains available for Turkey, she could in one week concentrate in the Straits:—

	Battalions.	Number of Men.	Squadrons.	Field Guns.
One week ..	88	20,000	20	150

If sea communication outside the Dardanelles was not available, Turkey could concentrate on the shores of the Straits and in the Gallipoli Peninsula:—

Weeks.	Battalions.	Number of Infantry.	Squadrons.	Field Guns.	Total in round Numbers.
1	18	9,000 to 10,000	20	84	15,000
2	62	37,200	30	180	45,000
3	145	87,000	35	210	97,000
6	328	160,000 to 200,000	40	360	175,000 to 215,000

As regards the last line, this concentration would consist of 48 battalions Nizam, 180 battalions Redif, 8 cavalry regiments Nizam, and 60 field, mountain, and horse batteries. It is assumed that no Redif battalion is mobilized under seven days, a space of time in which on various occasions from 1885 to 1895 inclusive Redif battalions have actually been mobilized.

If Turkish forces in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Ordous were retained owing to contemplated action of Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro, Greece, and Russia, the numbers of these concentrations would be very considerably affected.

It is therefore very evident that Turkey could mobilize in a short time very large field forces on both sides of the Straits, which would not be hampered in the same way for want of transport and supply services as concentration at a distance from the sea.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE, *Colonel.*

Constantinople, November 15, 1895.

No. 559.

Memorandum communicated by Morel Bey, November 25, 1895.

LES Représentants des Puissances ont officiellement demandé à la Sublime Porte l'autorisation pour le passage à travers les Détroits des Dardanelles et du Bosphore d'un second stationnaire.

La Sublime Porte croit devoir faire remarquer à ce propos que la présence au moment actuel de ces bâtiments dans les eaux de Constantinople peut être de nature à encourager les agitateurs, et peut-être même, à donner occasion à des désordres tant dans la capitale que dans les provinces; et, en outre, que les étrangers habitant les différentes parties de la capitale n'ont pas été molestés et n'ont absolument rien eu à souffrir pendant les derniers désordres, qui ont été fomentés, comme on le sait, par des agitateurs Arméniens.

La Sublime Porte espère que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique prendra en considération les observations qui précèdent, et voudra bien autoriser le Représentant de Sa Majesté à ne pas insister sur sa demande, qui, au moment où la sécurité et la confiance commencent à renaître, paraît au Gouvernement Impérial peu justifiée.

No. 560.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 237.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 25, 1895, 6·25 P.M.*

I HEAR from Count Hatzfeldt that the German Ambassador at Constantinople has given his support to the representations made by Her Majesty's Government relative to the necessity of treating the Zeitoun insurgents with leniency in the event of their surrendering to the Imperial troops.

The Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs states that your Italian colleague will be willing also to support the efforts of Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have expressed my thanks for this assurance, and have said that if your colleague will consult you, he will receive full information.

No. 561.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 238.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 25, 1895, 6·25 P.M.*

MOREL BEY, the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, called at this Office to-day, and communicated a request from the Porte that Her Majesty's Government should withdraw the application for a Firman for a second "stationnaire" at Constantinople, as the security of the European residents there was not threatened. He stated that the fanatical feeling amongst the Mahommedan population was solely directed against the Armenians, and was not roused against foreigners or other classes of Christians.

In reply, I told Morel Bey that Her Majesty's Government had not initiated the demand for second "stationnaires" to be attached to the Embassies, but that they thought it a desirable measure, that the circumstances thoroughly warranted the proposal, and that I was unable to agree to its withdrawal.

I refused to enter into any attempt at discriminating precisely the objects of the outbreaks on the part of the Mussulmans.

No. 562.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 25, 1895.*

I REQUEST your Excellency to thank the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs for his friendly communication and promises of support reported in your telegram No. 46 of the 23rd instant.

Her Majesty's Government have strongly urged that if the Zeitoun Armenians

surrender they should be treated with clemency by the Turkish Government, and that if any fresh massacres or excesses by Turkish troops should take place, the effect on public opinion in England and in Europe generally would be very serious. Her Majesty's Representative at Constantinople has been authorized to suggest the dispatch of a Commission, by which the terms of surrender might be arranged. If the Italian Ambassador will consult Sir P. Currie he will receive full information.

No. 563.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 744.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 25, 1895, 11·5 P.M.*

MR. BARNHAM telegraphs that he has received the following private and confidential communication from Marash:—

"A terrible massacre and general pillage occurred here on the 18th instant, and it is evident that the Government approved the proceedings. Many hundreds, perhaps thousands, were killed. Fires broke out in three Christian quarters. The soldiers plundered the theological seminary, academy, and boarding-house, and burnt the seminary. Two students were shot, one fatally.

"We ourselves have not been hurt, but have no feeling of security.

"We beg that aid may be sent for the destitute thousands as soon as their safety is assured."

Mr. Barnham asks me to inform the United States' Minister and the Bible House that the missionaries are in urgent need of money.

Circassians and other strangers are crowding into Aleppo, and Mr. Barnham expects an outbreak at any moment.

He adds that it is rumoured that there was another terrible massacre at Aintab on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

No. 564.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 745.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 25, 1895, 11·15 P.M.*

I INSTRUCTED the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum to speak to Shakir Pasha about the critical position of affairs at Van and Talori, and I have now received the following telegram in reply:—

"I spoke to Shakir Pasha in the sense of your Excellency's telegram of the 23rd November, calling his attention to the serious position at Van and Talori. His Excellency replied that he was not aware of the danger at the former place, and has at once taken the necessary measures. The whole of the reserves of the 4th Army Corps have been called out, amounting in all to 60,000 men, and Sadedin Pasha, who is now on his way from Constantinople, will be placed in command of them."

No. 565.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 746.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 25, 1895, 11 P.M.*

AT the meeting of Ambassadors to-day, a suggestion was made that the International Red Cross Society might be willing to organize a system of relief work among the suffering Armenians, and it was agreed that we should communicate this idea to our Governments.

The Armenian Patriarch has communicated to the Embassies here an appeal to the Powers for the destitute Armenians in the Asiatic provinces, who, after being exposed to massacre and pillage, are threatened with extermination by famine.

No. 566.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 747.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 25, 1895, 11 P.M.*

I RAISED a discussion at the Ambassadors' meeting to-day as to whether it would not be feasible for us to urge the Sultan to appoint a responsible Ministry.

Most of my colleagues received my suggestion well, but the Russian Ambassador held that the attempt would be sure to fail, and objected to it as an undue interference in the internal affairs of Turkey.

No. 567.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 748.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 25, 1895, 11·15 P.M.*

IN view of the refusal of the Porte to grant Firmans for the passage of the "stationnaires" and of the direct appeal made by the Turkish Government to the various Governments to withdraw the demand, it was agreed, at the Ambassadors' meeting this afternoon, that we should telegraph to our respective Governments in the following terms:—

"The Ambassadors are unanimously of the opinion that the dignity of the Powers and the security of the foreign Colonies require that they should insist on their demand for Firmans for the passage of the second 'stationnaire,' and, in the event of a refusal, that they should fix on a date, after which they will take measures to insure the concession of a right which has been formally recognized in the Treaties."

The measures to be taken will remain to be discussed when the Powers have concurred in the above telegram.

I proposed that we should ask authority to say that the "stationnaires" would appear at the Dardanelles on a given day, and, if the Firmans were not then granted, would be escorted through by the squadrons, but this was negatived by the French and Russian Ambassadors.

No. 568.

The Marquess of Salisbury to the Marquess of Dufferin.

(No. 551.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 25, 1895.*

THE French Ambassador called here this afternoon, and stated that he was instructed to thank Her Majesty's Government for the communication which your Excellency had made as to our concurrence in the proposal that second "stationnaires" should be attached to the Embassies at Constantinople.

He was further instructed to state that the French Government had also agreed to this proposal, and had authorized their Ambassador to take the necessary steps at the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 569.

The Marquess of Salisbury to the Marquess of Dufferin.

(No. 552.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 25, 1895.*

AFTER informing me of the course taken by his Government for attaching a second "stationnaire" to the Embassies at Constantinople, the French Ambassador went on to inform me that the Turkish Ambassador at Paris had, on the 23rd instant, made a communication to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs to the effect that as tranquillity is now restored at Constantinople, and the safety of Europeans is in no way threatened, the Porte consider that the presence of second "stationnaires" is unnecessary, and must decline to grant Firmans for their entrance into the Straits.

Baron de Courcel said that his Government would be glad to know whether a similar communication had been made to Her Majesty's Government, and what view they took of it.

I have informed his Excellency that the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires had called here this afternoon and had requested that Her Majesty's Government would withdraw their application for a Firman, giving the same grounds for considering it to be unnecessary. I had replied that Her Majesty's Government did not initiate the proposal for second "stationnaires," but that they entirely concurred in its expediency, and that I must decline to withdraw our application.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 570.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 270. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 20, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the occasion when I communicated to Prince Lobanoff the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 17th instant,* his Excellency, after giving me his reply, proceeded to discuss the question of the intervention on the part of the Powers to put an end to the disorders in Asia Minor.

His Excellency's ideas on the subject are as follows: it is presumably the object of every Power to get the Sultan to restore peace and order in his dominions; to do this in the present state of excitement among his subjects His Majesty must have time, and his moral authority must be unimpaired. Threats of intervention cannot but undermine that authority, and will therefore defeat the object the Powers have in view, as, no matter how much the Sultan may wish and strive to restore order, without prestige and moral authority he can do nothing. As things stand at present the Sultan has accepted all our demands and we should now give ample time to allow the excitement to subside, and await patiently the result of His Majesty's efforts to tranquillize the disturbed districts.

I said that, as far as I understood the matter, it appeared to me that if intervention took place at all, it would only be as a last resort, and after it was clearly proved that the Sultan had not the requisite authority to cope with the situation himself, but that I supposed that, if the horrible scenes enacted daily in Asia Minor should happen to continue without any effectual measures being taken to put them down, the time might come when patience might be exhausted, and the Powers feel it their duty to put an end to a state of things which was clearly intolerable.

Prince Lobanoff then made use of a phrase which he had used to one of my colleagues a short time ago: "My experience in the East tells me that such disturbances as are now taking place soon die a natural death, except in cases when the opposing elements are stirred up to continued action by some Power for her own political interests."

I ventured to observe, in reply, that happily this could not be the case at present, as the Powers concerned in the question of Armenian reforms had been all along in such complete accord. I added that I had no authority to discuss the question of ultimate intervention with his Excellency, and that any remarks I might have made were merely expressive of my personal views suggested by his own observations. His Excellency replied that he quite understood that, but that he had wished to place before me his own view of what would be the result of intervention, namely, that it would so weaken the authority of the Sultan as to render him powerless to cope with the difficulties of the situation.

His Excellency then proceeded to discuss the practical difficulties of any forcible intervention in Asia Minor, the greatest of which was, he observed, the large extent of territory where the disturbances are taking place. When France received the mandate of Europe to restore order in Damascus, this difficulty did not exist, as the disturbances were confined to one district; but in the present case, supposing the Powers undertook a similar task they would have the whole of Asia Minor to tranquillize, and how could it be done? Riots might be quelled in Zeitoun, they would crop out again say at Diarbekir, and so on through the whole country, and it was not

* [illegible]

difficult to foresee the enormous force that would be required to carry out such a tremendous undertaking effectually.

The keynote, however, of Prince Lobanoff's whole conversation was the fear that the more intervention was threatened the more would the Armenians be encouraged to endeavour to bring about that intervention by fomenting disturbances, and provoking the Turks to sanguinary reprisals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

No. 571.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 272.) *St. Petersburgh, November 21, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I have duly informed Prince Lobanoff that the report that fourteen of Her Majesty's ships had been dispatched to the Mediterranean to reinforce the British Squadron there was entirely devoid of truth, and that only two second-class cruisers had been sent to replace ships that had been moved elsewhere.

I may mention that, on the occasion when Prince Lobanoff alluded to the report in question, I told his Excellency that, although I was unacquainted with the movements of Her Majesty's ships, I was quite sure that the rumour was incorrect, and that if any vessels were being sent to the Mediterranean, it was probably only in consequence of some contemplated rearrangement of the squadron.

In thanking me yesterday for the information I had given him, Prince Lobanoff alluded generally to the size of our squadron in the Mediterranean, and said that Russia had only three or four "miserable little ships" on that station; he added, however, that the little squadron which left Cronstadt on the 10th instant, viz., the "Rurik" and the "Dmitri Donskoi," had orders, after touching at Portsmouth and Brest, to go to Algiers, and there to await instructions as to whether they were to remain in the Mediterranean or proceed elsewhere.

With reference to the orders given for the "Peter Veliki" and two other ships to go to Reval with all possible dispatch, to which I alluded in my telegram to your Lordship of the 17th instant, I am informed that at a conference of the Marine General Staff, held on the 12th instant, Admiral Kremer stated that this step had been decided upon as a measure of precaution, but that he did not consider it probable that the services of the ships in question would be required in the Mediterranean before the spring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

No. 572.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 343. Most Confidential.) *Vienna, November 22, 1895.*

My Lord,

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI called on me yesterday afternoon, and expressed himself as much gratified at the nature of the conversation which he had had in the morning with Sir Philip Currie.

His Excellency proceeded to say that he had just received the answer of the French Government to his communication of the 12th instant, in which the Austro-Hungarian Government proposed the three points, since accepted by England, Italy, and Germany. The French Government agreed in regard to the first two, but stated that the third, empowering the Ambassadors at Constantinople to summon the foreign squadrons without further application to their respective Governments, was of such weighty importance that it required mature consideration. The refusal was, in fact, said Count Goluchowski, not so positive in language as that of Russia, but sufficiently plain in its meaning.

Count Goluchowski went on to observe that the situation at Constantinople appears so far improved as to inspire the hope that the crisis, for which the third point was

intended to provide, need no longer be feared as imminent; and he spoke vaguely of the possibility that the Russian reserve in regard to that point might not prove to be insuperable.

His Excellency was very anxious to impress upon me that there is no reason to doubt the sincerity of the German Government in regard to their adhesion to the necessity of putting the utmost pressure upon the Sultan. The language of their Ambassador at Constantinople to His Imperial Majesty, and the assurances given by the Emperor William to M. de Szögyeni, at Berlin, and by Count Eulenburg here had been identic in their spirit, and thoroughly satisfactory to the Austro-Hungarian Government.

The general accord between the six Powers was, therefore, thoroughly established; and the minor divergence of opinion in regard to the entry of the foreign squadrons into the Dardanelles by no means disturbed it.

Upon this point I may as well report to your Lordship that I have, within the last two or three days, had several opportunities of conversing with my German colleague, and I have not scrupled to tell him that the pretext alleged by his Government of having no ships which can be spared to be sent to the Mediterranean does not appear to me to be a valid one. After the recent naval display at Kiel, at which he (Count Eulenburg) had himself been present as a spectator, he was making far too little of the maritime resources of his country, if he considered that she had not the means of sending a few representative ships to join the squadrons of the other Powers in cruising in the Levant.

Count Eulenburg, however, persisted that Germany really cannot do this from lack of the requisite vessels; and that his Imperial Master is always complaining of the inadequacy of his fleet for all the purposes required of it.

Count Nigra, who called here yesterday to see Sir Philip Currie, had, he told me, been speaking in the same strain to Count Eulenburg; and entirely agreed with me as to the unfortunate effect which this excuse had produced. No one, said my Italian colleague, could accept it as a sufficient reason for the non-participation of Germany; and the latter Power had consequently no right to express surprise if doubts had been felt as to her sincere adoption of the standpoint of the other Powers.

In his conversation yesterday afternoon with me, Count Eulenburg stated that, in his belief, the stories in circulation as to the backwardness of Germany were the mischievous work of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 573.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 278.) *Berlin, November 22, 1895.*

My Lord,

BARON VON MARSCHALL told me this morning that, according to the last news he had received from Constantinople, a Council had been held yesterday at the Palace at Constantinople to deliberate on the question of the issue of the Firmans for the passage through the Straits of the additional "stationnaires," but that no decision had been come to.

The Sultan was much opposed to the proposed step, but his Excellency considered that His Majesty must yield sooner or later, as the contemplated measure was strictly in accordance with the Treaties.

He asked me whether I had seen the reply sent by M. Nélidoff to the Armenian Catholicos, in reply to the appeal for protection forwarded by his Beatitude to the Russian Government.

On my replying in the affirmative, his Excellency remarked: "Il me semble que la réponse est un peu forte."

Baron von Marschall said that the proposal put forward by Count Goluchowski for combined action on the part of the fleets had practically fallen through, in consequence of the opposition of Russia, "who as usual is backed up by France;" but his Excellency thinks that the dispatch of such a large naval force to the Levant may still have a salutary effect in keeping the agitation in Constantinople itself within bounds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 574.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 275.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 23, 1895.*

IN compliance with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 118 of yesterday's date I called this morning on Baron von Marschall, and told his Excellency that your Lordship had heard with much satisfaction of the language held by Baron von Saurma to the Sultan, which seemed to have produced a very good effect, and that I had been instructed to convey to his Excellency the best acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government for the friendly support thus given by Germany.

I further stated that your Lordship was glad to learn that Baron von Saurma has joined Mr. Herbert in endeavouring to obtain generous treatment for the Zeitoun insurgents, and added that if a massacre ensued, the effect on public opinion would be very serious.

Baron von Marschall begged me to express his cordial thanks for your Lordship's message.

He said that Baron von Saurma had used the plainest possible language to the Sultan, and had told him in so many words that, if he wished to preserve his Throne, it was absolutely necessary for him to follow the advice of the Six Powers, and put an end to the lawless proceedings of the Kurds, which are a disgrace to any civilized Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 575.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 276. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 23, 1895.*

IN the Telegram Section for the 16th-18th instant, I observe a despatch from Mr. Herbert, stating that the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin has telegraphed to the Porte that Baron von Marschall informed him that a joint naval demonstration was imminent, but that in view of the friendship existing between the Emperor and the Sultan, Germany will not take part in it.

I do not believe it at all probable that any such language was ever held by Baron von Marschall to Rifaat Bey, the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires.

I happened to call at the Foreign Office on the 16th instant, and Baron von Marschall told me he had seen Rifaat Bey on the previous day, and had spoken to him in the strongest possible way of the dangers which the Sultan was incurring, by disregarding the counsels of all Europe.

"Whether he will repeat my remarks at Constantinople is perhaps doubtful, but at all events I gave him some very good advice."

I inquired yesterday of Baron von Marschall whether anything was known as to Tewfik Pasha's successor.

His Excellency replied that he had heard nothing at all about it; but his own impression is that Tewfik Pasha, bearing in mind the kaleidoscopic changes which follow each other with such startling rapidity at the Porte, is very anxious to keep the Berlin Embassy open for himself, as a haven of rest when his Master shall have grown tired of his services.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 576.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 26, 1895.*

WITH reference to the telegram addressed to me by your Lordship No. 89 I have to state that the request of the Turkish Ambassador that Count Goluchowski should withdraw the application for a second "stationnaire" was yesterday categorically refused by the latter, who advised that the demand should be complied with promptly.

Through the French Ambassador, Count Goluchowski had heard the day before yesterday that the French Government had already received the request, but as yet it is not known here what answer they have returned.

No. 577.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 96. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 26, 1895.*

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI being absent at as hunting party, Count Welsersheimb, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, showed two telegrams to me to-day in the strictest confidence. In the first of these was conveyed the text of the identic telegram which the six Ambassadors had addressed to their respective Governments, in which it was proposed that a date should be fixed before which the Turkish Government must grant Firmans for second "stationnaires," and threatening, in case of refusal, to take further measures. In the second telegram it was stated confidentially as Baron Calice's idea that the Ambassadors in the latter case may declare that iron-clads will escort these "stationnaires" through the Dardanelles.

I hope to-morrow to be able to report to your Lordship the views held on this point by Count Goluchowski.

No. 578.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 749.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 26, 1895, 2·30 P.M.*

I WAS informed to-day by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that we were at liberty to send for the "Dryad" in exchange for one of the two "stationnaires" now lying here.

His Excellency added that Firmans would be issued for an additional "stationnaire" for the four other Powers.

I have informed the Admiral that as the "Cockatrice" has a larger crew, I would prefer that she should remain here, and have proposed to send the "Imogene" to the Dardanelles to await the arrival of the "Dryad," and then to proceed to join the fleet.

No. 579.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 750.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 26, 1895, 1·45 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 237 of yesterday.

The Grand Vizier informs me that instructions have been sent to Marash to form a Commission of Christian Notables, who are to proceed to Zeitoun to treat with the inhabitants.

The German Ambassador has supported the representations made by this Embassy about the Zeitounlis.

Mr. Consul Barnham fears an outbreak at Aleppo. I have been assured by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day that he will make inquiries as to the state of affairs there.

No. 580.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 26.*)

(No. 751.)
(Telegraphic). P. *Constantinople, November 26, 1895, 5 P.M.*

THE Acting British Consul at Erzeroum telegraphs to me as follows:—

"I do not consider that Mr. Hampson's suggestion for the formation of an Armenian Mountain Police is at present feasible. Shakir Pasha is doing his best to stop Kurdish raids, and will succeed if he is allowed a free hand.

"We have had a slight disturbance here to-day, owing to a false alarm which created a panic, but quiet was promptly restored by the authorities, who arrested several Turks. So far as I can learn, two Armenians were killed, and two wounded.

"Shakir Pasha has communicated to me a telegram from the Vali of Van, reporting that tranquillity has been restored in the neighbourhood, and that there is no need for special anxiety about the danger of the town. The Vali says that the Kurds in the Hekkiari district are not yet under control, and that Kurds have been crossing the frontier from Persia, and that the Persian Ambassador has been requested to have a stop put to this.

No. 581.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 384.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 26, 1895.*

I HAVE received Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 767 of the 6th instant relative to the identic verbal communication made on the 5th instant by the Representatives of the Six Powers to the Porte on the subject of the condition of the Asiatic provinces of Turkey.

I approve the terms of the communication, and the language held by Mr. Herbert to Said Pasha when making it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 582.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 358.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 26, 1895.*

THE Russian Ambassador called here to-day and communicated a message from his Government in the terms of the inclosed Memorandum,* stating that the Sultan had requested that the demand made by the Powers for second stationnaires at Constantinople might at least be deferred, if it could not be withdrawn. His Excellency was instructed to say that the Russian Government were ready to agree, and hoped that Her Majesty's Government would do so.

In reply, I have informed M. de Staal that the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires here had presented a request that Her Majesty's Government should withdraw their application, but that I had replied that I must refuse to do so, and that I gathered from a telegram just received from Sir P. Currie, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had informed him that the Firmans would be granted. I hoped, therefore, that the question was settled, and it seemed to me that the arrival at Constantinople of five vessels of comparatively small size was not a matter to create any serious excitement or alarm.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Memorandum communicated by M. de Staal, November 26, 1895.

No. 583.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 118.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 26, 1895.*

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador called here to-day and stated that his Government had received no communication from the Porte on the subject of the second "stationnaire" for the Embassies at Constantinople. The French Government had, however, consulted them respecting the communication made by the Turkish Representative at Paris to the effect that the Sultan refused to grant the necessary Firmans. Count Goluchowski thought that the Powers ought to stand firm, and that if they gave way the impression produced on the Porte and on the population in Turkey, Mussulmans and Christians alike, would be unfortunate.

Count Deym was informed, in reply, that the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires had yesterday communicated to me a request that Her Majesty's Government would withdraw their application for a Firman, but that I had replied that I must decline to do so, and that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs had now told Sir P. Currie that the Firmans would be granted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 584.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 27.*)

(No. 137.)
My Lord, *Athens, November 21, 1895.*

I LEARN that the Austrian Minister, while explaining to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs that it was not (as falsely described by the newspapers) a naval demonstration which his Government had proposed to the Powers signatory of the Treaty of Berlin, discouraged this Government from making any attempt to join in the action proposed.

The Italian Minister, more directly instructed, spoke to M. Skouzès in the same sense, and M. Onou, the Russian Minister, while conveying Prince Lobanoff's explanation that the dispatch of the European war-vessels to Turkish waters was not a hostile measure, but one for an eminently peaceful purpose, gave his own personal view that it would be a great mistake on the part of the Hellenic Government to dispatch any war-ships. The flags of the men-of-war of the Great Powers were familiar in the ports of Turkey, but that of Greece might arouse fanatical excitement, and create the very evil which it is desired to prevent.

I have not seen the French and the German Representatives, but I have no reason to think that the Greek Government would not receive similar advice from them.

When I last saw M. Skouzès I was not aware that any of my colleagues had spoken to him on the subject, and as our conversation was on other matters I did not introduce it, the less so as I did not see signs that M. Delyanni was about to take any immediate naval action.

To-day, however, when I had the honour to see the King, I let His Majesty know that my Government agreed with the opinion expressed by the Austrian Government that the naval measures for the protection of European interests in Turkey should be taken by those Powers only who signed the Treaty of Berlin.

His Majesty made no remark as to the limitation, but seemed very fearful of the insufficiency of the step to be taken by the Powers. To send ships as proposed was, in his opinion, a half measure which would not stop the massacres inland.

I answered that here in Athens we were in the dark as to much that was going on, but fortunately he could rely on the Powers acting in unison and suiting their action to the necessities of the case.

His Majesty, after speaking on the subject of the Greek populations in Turkey, whose interests should, no less than those of the Armenians, be considered, reverted to the correct and prudent attitude of his Prime Minister, who had done all in his power here to allay excitement on foreign questions, and to whom, for this conduct, he had expressed his approval on his return.

I agreed with His Majesty that M. Delyanni had apparently been acting with sense

and prudence, though no doubt much tried by the violence of a press which advocated so much foolish adventure.

In fine, the Hellenic Government has been made aware that their war-ships are not invited to join those of the Great Powers, and I trust that it may not be necessary to say more to them on the subject of the movement of those vessels; but, if it should appear so, I will act with my colleagues in dissuasion from imprudent action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 585.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 27.)

(Confidential.)
Admiralty, November 27, 1895.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram, dated this day, from the Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 585.

Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour to Admiralty.

Salonica, November 27, 1895.

(Telegraphic.)

AT request of Ambassador "Dryad" leaves to-day to replace "Imogene;" latter will come here, and shortly go to Malta to be docked and cleaned, and await further orders. Arrange mails.

No. 586.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 752.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 27, 1895, 11·30 A.M.*

THE Sultan has sent me a message proposing the appointment of Sirri Pasha, late Governor of Diarbekir, as President of the Commission of Control, in the place of Shefik Bey, who has been removed from the post. Sirri Pasha bears a good character, and I do not therefore intend to make any objections to his appointment.

No. 587.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 753.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 27, 1895, 12·53 P.M.*

IT appears that the Foreign Minister misled me yesterday in stating that permission had been given for the passage of the "stationnaires," as reported in my telegram No. 749 of yesterday.

The Sultan persists in his refusal apparently from fear that the vessels will be used against him, though the Ministers profess that they have advised him to yield.

No. 588.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 27, 1895.*

IN continuation of my telegram of yesterday, I beg to report that the proposal contained in the identic telegram of the six Ambassadors at Constantinople was at once agreed to by Count Goluchowski.

A suggestion of Prince Lobanoff that the Firmans for the passage of the second "stationnaires" should not be acted on when granted was communicated yesterday to Count Goluchowski by Count Kapnist. The former replied that such a course would not only make the Powers ridiculous in the eyes of the Turks, but would also prove to the Sultan the non-existence of the unanimity of the Powers which had been so loudly proclaimed.

No. 589.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 98. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 27, 1895.*

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI informs me that he has told Count Kapnist that Prince Lobanoff's opinion that the Ambassadors at Constantinople are unduly impressed by being on the spot, and that a sounder estimate can be formed by their respective Governments at a distance, is in no way shared by him.

On the contrary, the fifteen years' local experience gained by Baron Calice renders him a far better judge of the situation than he (Count Goluchowski) can be, and the most widely-extending full powers have been in consequence given to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Constantinople.

Count Kapnist was further told by Count Goluchowski that he should for himself, and he thought that all the other Governments should also for themselves, shrink from refusing to concur in a course which the six Ambassadors at Constantinople had unanimously recommended, such a refusal being, in his Excellency's opinion, too great a responsibility to undertake.

Prince Lobanoff's suggestion as to not acting on the Firmans was, I understand, made before the decision of the Ambassadors formulated in their identic telegram came to his knowledge.

No. 590.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 241.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 27, 1895, 3·30 P.M.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 752 of to-day, reporting that the Sultan proposes to appoint Sirri Pasha, late Vali of Diarbekir, to the Presidency of the Armenian Commission of Control, in the place of Shefik Bey, who has been removed from that post.

I agree that your Excellency need not raise any objection to Sirri Pasha's appointment.

No. 591.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 242.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 27, 1895, 6·35 P.M.*

M. DE STAAL communicated on the 26th instant a message from Prince Lobanoff to the effect that the Sultan had requested that the application by the Powers for Firmans for second "stationnaires" at Constantinople might at least be deferred, if it

could not be withdrawn. His Excellency added that his Government were willing to grant this request, and hoped that Her Majesty's Government would also agree to it.

In reply, I stated that the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires here had presented a request that the application made by Her Majesty's Government for a Firman should be withdrawn, but that I had refused to do so; that I understood from your Excellency that Tewfik Pasha had promised that the Firmans would be issued, and that I therefore hoped that this question might be regarded as already settled. From your telegram No. 753 of to-day, however, I fear that it has not been possible to overcome the Sultan's objections.

I hear that the Austro-Hungarian Government have accepted the proposal of the Ambassadors that they should be authorized to name a date for the issue of the Firmans, after which action should be taken to obtain the concession of a right which the Treaties formally recognize.

No. 592.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 243. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 27, 1895, 6:40 P.M.*

THE Admiral in command of the Mediterranean Squadron reports that Her Majesty's ship "Dryad" will replace Her Majesty's ship "Imogene," and will leave Salonica to-day for the purpose.

I shall be glad to learn whether your Excellency will still be able to make arrangements for this exchange. If so, the Porte can hardly continue to refuse the application of the other Ambassadors to be placed on the same footing as the British Embassy.

No. 593.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 28.)

Admiralty, November 26, 1895.

Sir,

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from the Senior Naval Officer in the Red Sea, dated at Jeddah, the 28th October, respecting the state of affairs at that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 593.

Commander Paget to Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour.

"Dolphin," at Jeddah, October 28, 1895.

Sir,

IN continuation of my last letter of proceedings of the 15th instant, I beg to report that the Grand Shereef is vainly endeavouring to persuade the perpetrators of the outrage on the Consuls—now retired on Faral beyond Asfan—to voluntarily surrender themselves for trial, having promised them immunity from the consequences, and also having volunteered to mutually concede to them certain hostages for their lives and liberty; but the named hostages of his own *entourage* that have been asked for in lieu, the Grand Shereef cannot surrender; anyway, a trial under these conditions must be a farce.

2. Between the 13th and 16th instant, on the Jeddah–Mecca road, three caravans were looted, one of thirty-two camels with Government grain and specie.

3. Considerable reinforcements to the Hedjaz garrisons have arrived of late, but almost entirely of raw and untrained recruits.

They have generally arrived without arms, which are even now not yet provided, but it is stated that there is a reserve at Mecca.

Date of arrival.	Name of Transport.	Troops on board.	Landed here.
October 15, 1895 ..	Kamil Pasha ..	1,100	About half.
" 17, " ..	Bahr Ghedid ..	1,049	" "
" 20, " ..	Assir	1,615	815—Yembo 100.

Camels, provisions, and ammunition are being accumulated at Mecca, so, failing the negotiations of the Grand Shereef, Ratib Pasha will probably endeavour the arrest of the murderers with what seasoned troops he has available.

4. On the 26th instant the "Papin" (French) sailed for Port Saïd. On account of the threatened cholera epidemic, Captain Havard was ordered there to further the passage of the French transports from Madagascar through Egypt.

A French gun-boat is expected here from Saigon about the 16th November.

5. The health of the ship's company is very good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED PAGET.

No. 594.

Rev. W. Adamson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

My Lord, *The Vicarage, Old Ford, London, November 27, 1895.*

AT a time when the wildest rumours are afloat, and when many hard things are justly said against Turkish provincial government, it is well that something should be said of the way in which the Governor of Nablus, and the officer in command of the Reserves passing through the town and valley, behaved during and after the sudden attack upon the Christian buildings there.

Full particulars of the attack made on Friday, the 8th, are now to hand, and it is clear that, while at one critical moment there was the very gravest peril, matters have been much exaggerated by the Egyptian papers. My daughter, writing on Saturday, the 9th, describes what she saw of the riot. And copies of letters of the same and of later date from Dr. G. Wright and Miss Reeve have also reached me. From these I gather that the riot was connected with the calling out of the Reserves and Militia.

Dr. Wright, referring to the origin of the trouble, says that "a few days before the outbreak an order had come to Nablus calling out 3,500 of the Reserves for Crete." Miss Reeve also adds that "there were recruits leaving Nablus to go to Armenia;" while my daughter mentions that the riots were due "to the militia marching through the valley on their way to the unsettled Turkish provinces." And all three letters explain—

1. That the men themselves were very incensed at being obliged to go to the war.

2. That some of their families were exceedingly angry at all their males leaving for war (as they think).

3. That the Moslem soldiers who rioted were really assisted by persons from neighbouring villages.

Dr. Wright states that the mob consisted of about 500 people, and that the attack on the Church Missionary station and church was very determined. Several hundred stones were thrown, but the distance of the buildings from the road was a protection. My daughter says, "The attack was a sudden and tumultuous one, but has been much exaggerated in the papers. There were injuries inflicted; but the wounds, though ugly, were not mortal. Abu Miriam, who was wounded, is a brave old man, and very good and true. The riot," she adds, "was entirely due to reports that the Christian nations of Europe were the cause of the thousands of men being summoned to leave their homes and families for the battle-field."

Dr. Wright refers to the prompt and praiseworthy conduct of the officer in command. He says, "It was so ordered that the attack took place at the very time that

the Turkish General was paying a visit to the veteran missionary, the Rev. G. Falkcher." When he heard the shouting he came out, drew his sword, and ordered the mob back. Another officer also drew his sword, and some soldiers (attending on the General) drove the rioters back with the butt-ends of their guns. Miss Reeve and my daughter both state that the Latin convent and Greek church were also attacked, but that beyond breaking in a door no damage was done there. All three writers mention that there was great excitement prevailing in the town, and that people paraded the streets, calling out "Death to the Christians." "Death come and take the Nazarenes." My daughter says it was very much like some London riots not so long ago.

It would appear that most of the residents in Nablus had no sympathy with the disturbers from outside, and that many of the Moslems were as frightened as the native Christians. Threats were flying about on the day after the outbreak that there would be a massacre of the Christians in church on Sunday, the 10th, by the soldiers; but these proved like many wild rumours, for Dr. Wright, in a further letter dated the 13th, says, "We are thankful to say that things seem to have quieted down. We have had no further disturbances. We were able to hold our services in church as usual. The people are still very frightened, but I trust that all danger has passed."

In this further letter of the 13th Dr. Wright refers to the excellent demeanour of the Governor of Nablus. He says, "The Governor has expressed his sorrow, and says that he will do what he can to prevent any recurrence of the riots." Miss Reeve, writing on the 11th, mentions that the Governor said, "I regret, and nothing more shall happen." It appears that a message arrived from the Vali of Beyrout, requesting him to protect the Christians and missionaires. So that all was done to preserve order and save life and property. Miss Reeve adds, "The Governor kept his word, for yesterday, when the Reserves left Nablus for Toul Karim, they were marched by the outermost road under the olives. The Governor put guards at our church-doors. Everything was perfectly quiet." Dr. Wright further remarks on the situation that the Governor has imprisoned some twenty to thirty of the leading rioters, that he is making strict inquiries into the whole matter, and that these steps have had a tranquillizing effect.

It is a source of gratifying thankfulness that all three writers are calm and hopeful. Miss Reeve says, "Mr. and Mrs. Falkcher are very brave, and full of faith;" and she adds, "Do not fear; in His hand are *all* the corners of the earth." Dr. Wright says, "We have given ourselves continually to prayer, and know that we are safe in the Lord's keeping; we cannot help praising God for our deliverance, and thanking Him for the many friends He has raised up for us;" while my daughter closes her letter in these words, "All is well, so do not be anxious. We are calm, and have perfect confidence in God. Underneath are the everlasting arms. They may again attack us; but if they do (and I doubt it), God is our refuge and our strength. So pray for us, as we are praying for ourselves and for our dear frightened native Christians."

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. ADAMSON, *Vicar.*

No. 595.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 28.)

(Confidential.)
Admiralty, November 28, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 27th November, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the decypher of a telegram, dated this day, from the Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 595.

Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, November 28, 1895.*

"DRYAD" sailed 3·30 yesterday afternoon.

Telegram received from Ambassador 8 P.M. to effect he had changed his mind as to replacing "Imogene."

"Ardent" sailed 9·30 P.M. to recall immediately "Dryad," and ought to catch her before she enters Dardanelles.

No. 596.

Sir H. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 28, 1895.*

WITH reference to the telegram addressed to me by your Lordship No. 90, I have the honour to report that, as regards declining to withdraw the application for a Firman, Count Goluchowski agrees with your Lordship. He has informed the Russian Ambassador of his objection, and he also objects to any previous understanding that the Firman should not be acted on, as I telegraphed to your Lordship yesterday. The Ambassadors can decide whether the immediate presence of the second vessels is desirable after the Firman has been granted.

No. 597.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 755.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 28, 1895.*

MY telegram No. 749 of the 20th instant.

Acting on the voluntary statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that we were at liberty to change one of our "stationnaires" for the "Dryad," I tried to push the matter through at once, and so settle the general question of the second "stationnaires" for all the Powers. The Sultan, however, appears determined to refuse the "stationnaires" altogether, and repudiates the statement of the Foreign Minister, which he must previously have authorized. I have been in constant communication with the Sultan and his Ministers. The Foreign Minister came to see me late last night, and directly after his departure, at about 1 o'clock, Said Pasha, ex-Grand Vizier, arrived.

The Admiral and I have been rather at cross-purposes. I understood that he would not dispatch the "Dryad" till he heard from me that the Firmans were issued, but yesterday afternoon I received a telegram from him, stating that the "Dryad" would reach Chanak at 11 this morning. Chanak is the quarantine station just below the principal batteries of the Dardanelles, but inside the outer forts.

I immediately sent Mr. Block to the Palace, and at the same time telegraphed to Mr. Vice-Consul Russell to warn the authorities and take all necessary precautions.

The Sultan was much excited at the news, and pressed me, as I could not communicate with the "Dryad," to order Mr. Russell to embark on a Turkish gunboat, and try and intercept the "Dryad."

This I refused to do, as I was afraid the instructions might miscarry, and I insisted that orders should be telegraphed to the outer forts not to fire on the "Dryad," so as to insure her safety. This the Sultan eventually consented to do. I, on my side, telegraphed to Russell not to let her go beyond Chanak. Meanwhile, I had informed the Admiral that the Firman had not been granted, and he now telegraphs that he has sent another ship to intercept the "Dryad," and has also ordered Vice-Consul Russell to send her back.

The hopeless state of this Government is beyond belief. Nothing but a threat of force will overcome the Sultan's resistance, and the Ambassadors will now have to consider what steps they are to take with that view.

No. 598.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 28.*)

(No. 756.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 28, 1895.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 242 of yesterday.

The proposal of the second "stationnaire" originated with the Russians, and we ought, I think, to refuse to follow them into an undignified and dangerous position of their own creation. It would be fatal to the influence of the Powers to surrender at the present stage our Treaty rights in regard to "stationnaires," and would increase the panic already prevailing among the foreign Colonies. Should fresh troubles break out, an event far from improbable, we should need vessels stronger than the present "stationnaires" to give efficient protection to Europeans.

The French Ambassador has urged this view strongly on his Government, and it is shared by all my colleagues.

M. de Nélidoff has informed his Government that the situation is in no way changed by the fallacious statements of the Sultan, but our only chance of keeping Russia in line is that we should show our readiness in case of necessity to act without her.

If Austria and Italy would join us in declaring to the Sultan that the "stationnaires" would pass the Dardanelles on a given day, and that if the Firmans for their passage are not issued by that time they will be escorted as far as the entrance by iron-clads, it is not likely that France and Russia would refuse to act with us in such a case.

No. 599.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 28.*)

(No. 757.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 28, 1895.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs that the disturbance at Aintab, reported in my telegram No. 744 of the 25th November, was not very serious, and that only four persons were killed there.

No. 600.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 28.*)

(No. 758.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 28, 1895, 8·5 P.M.*

A MEETING of the Ambassadors took place this afternoon, at which M. de Nélidoff stated that, as England and Austria were determined to insist on the "stationnaires," Russia would do the same. The French and Russian Ambassadors having received no answer to the proposals telegraphed by the Ambassadors on the 25th, the question of the further measures to be taken could not be formally discussed, but the general opinion appeared to be that we should notify the Porte that at a fixed date the vessels would pass the Dardanelles.

The ex-Grand Vizier Said and the Foreign Minister called this afternoon on the Ambassadors, with a request from the Sultan that we should urge our Governments not to maintain their demand for the second "stationnaires." His Majesty, they said, feared that their arrival would excite the Armenians to commit further excesses, and the Council of State was of opinion that the measures taken by the Imperial Government would prove sufficient to secure public order.

I refused to send this message, on the ground that it was merely a repetition of the communications already made, that your Lordship had informed me that Her Majesty's Government maintained their demand, and that I myself had strongly urged that it should be maintained. I added that the massacres which had occurred in the capital and the provinces made it impossible to have any confidence in the maintenance of public security.

No. 601.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 29.*)

(No. 281.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 27, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 276, Confidential, of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the semi-official "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of yesterday calls attention to a statement published on the 23rd of this month by the "Hamburgische Correspondent," in the form of a telegram from Constantinople, that "a Declaration made by the German Emperor that His Majesty does not sympathize with the naval demonstration has been gratefully received in Turkish circles. The Sultan declared to his Ministers that he fully appreciates Germany's friendship for Turkey."

Commenting upon this, the "Norddeutsche" states that, according to inquiries which they have made, the alleged Declaration of His Imperial Majesty is a pure fabrication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 602.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 244.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 29, 1895, 9 A.M.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 746 of the 25th instant, communicating a suggestion made at a meeting of the Ambassadors on that day that the International Red Cross Society might be willing to organize Missions for the relief of the destitute Armenians in the Asiatic provinces.

Her Majesty's Government are in favour of the proposal if agreed to by the other Powers.

I should be glad to learn what replies have been received from the other Governments, and what steps they propose should be taken to carry out the suggestion.

No. 603.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received November 29.*)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, November 29, 1895, 6 P.M.*

AT an interview with Baron von Marschall this morning the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires asked that the Emperor should exert his good offices with the other five Powers with a view to the demand for second "stationnaires" being abandoned; he said that the Sultan was prepared to guarantee order and the security of life and property at Constantinople.

His Excellency categorically refused this request, and again impressed on the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires that the Sultan's best chance of maintaining order was at once to yield to the request which the Great Powers had unanimously put forward.

Baron von Marschall informed me in strict confidence that Russia had recently sounded the German Government as to whether it would be advisable to withdraw the demand, but that they had declined to do so, and that Russia will now join in concerted action of the other Powers.

No. 604.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 385.) *Foreign Office, November 30, 1895.*

Sir,

I HAVE received Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 828 A of the 21st instant, stating that the Sultan had expressed a wish to have the advice of the Representatives of the Powers as to what measures he should take to restore confidence, and reporting the message which, at a meeting of the Ambassadors on the 18th instant, it was decided to send in reply through Baron Calice, the Doyen of the Corps Diplomatique.

Her Majesty's Government concur generally in the steps recommended to His Imperial Majesty in this message.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 605.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 763.) *Constantinople, December 1, 1895.*

(Telegraphic.) P.

THE Foreign Minister called on me this morning to inquire, on the part of the Sultan, whether your Lordship had yet sent any message in answer to His Majesty's observations as to the "stationnaires" at the audience granted me last Friday.

The Foreign Minister added that His Majesty still hoped that England would return to her former footing of intimate friendship with Turkey, and would induce the other Powers to waive their demands.

I replied that I had received no message from your Lordship, and that I did not expect one, as your reply had already been given to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires in London. As to Her Majesty's Government intervening to induce the Powers to waive their demand, there could be no question of their adopting such a course; all the Powers were agreed to insist on their demand, and England was acting in concert with them.

No. 606.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 831.) *Constantinople, November 21, 1895.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 725 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to inclose a list of vessels designated by the Powers to act as second "stationnaires" at Constantinople, together with a description of their tonnage, length, armament, and crews.

As your Lordship will observe, both the "Donetz" and the "Faucon" have a greater displacement, carry more men, and are more heavily armed than the "Dryad." In fact, the dispatch of the "Faucon" is not consistent with the agreement come to by the Representatives of the six Powers at their meeting on the 12th instant, when it was distinctly stipulated that cruisers should not be sent.

M. Cambon, whom I spoke to on the subject, informed me confidentially that the French Government had offered him the choice of the "Faucon" and the "Flèche," a torpedo-catcher of about 400 tons; that he had at first meant to apply for a Firman for the "Flèche," but, as the news on the morning of the day the application was sent in was disquieting, he had determined to have the larger vessel, and had accordingly substituted the name of the "Faucon" for that of the "Flèche" in the Takrir.

If the "Cockatrice" leaves when the "Dryad" arrives, we shall have considerably fewer men here than the other Powers, as the "Imogene" also carries a smaller crew than the other "stationnaire" at present in the harbour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 606.

List of Vessels designated by England, France, Russia, Austria, and Italy to act as second "stationnaires" in the Bosphorus.

Name of Vessel.	No. of Men.	Tonnage.	Length.	Armament.	Speed.
			Feet.		Knots.
Dryad	129	1070	250	2 4·7-in. guns, 4 6-pr. Q.F., 3 torpedo tubes	19
Faucon (French) ..	148	1220	223	5 10-centim. guns, 1 47-millim. Q.F., 6 37-millim. Hotchkiss revolvers, 1 65-millim. for landing	17
Donetz (Russian) ..	161	1324	210	2 8-in. guns, 1 6-in., 1 Q.F., 6 47-millim. ..	13
Sebenico (Austrian) ..	140	856	186	5 light guns, 7 mitrailleuses, 1 torpedo tube	..
Archimede (Italy) ..	114	771	220	4 light guns, 5 torpedo tubes	..

No. 607.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 832. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 21, 1895.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 722 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to report the following details in regard to the language held to the Sultan by Baron Saurma, the German Ambassador.

It appears that his Excellency was invited to an audience, but he declined, thinking that the fact of his being received alone might produce the impression that Germany was not in complete agreement with the other Great Powers. He, however, sent through Kiazim Bey a message to the Sultan from the German Emperor, couched in the following terms:—

"The state of anarchy which prevails throughout the Empire has caused the Powers to lose all confidence, and induced them to unite a powerful fleet in Turkish waters to be ready for any eventuality. The German Emperor, from a friendly and personal feeling for His Majesty, had abstained from joining in this movement. But the Sultan should not be under any delusion on that account. Germany was in complete accord with Europe in regard to the Oriental question, and the Emperor desired to warn His Majesty that there was great danger of his deposition if he did not adopt a line of policy which would restore the confidence of Europe. His Majesty might take this as a last warning, and the Emperor trusted that he would take heed to it."

After delivering this message, which was couched in perhaps the strongest language ever held to the Sultan, Kiazim Bey was put under surveillance, and the Sultan's First Secretary, with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, were sent to the German Embassy to inquire whether the language he had used was accurate.

They were informed, in reply, by Baron Saurma, that the message had been correctly and faithfully delivered by Kiazim Bey, who seems to have behaved with dignity and courage.

His Majesty was in consequence very much perturbed, and appealed to Baron Saurma for his advice. His Excellency replied that His Majesty had better consult all the Ambassadors, and not one alone, and this, as I have had the honour to report in my despatch No. 827 of the 20th instant, His Majesty decided to do.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 608.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 833.)
Constantinople, November 21, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 699 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Porte have requested the six Embassies to consider the communication of the orders sent to the Valis (copies of which were inclosed in my despatch No. 829 of the 20th instant) as a reply to the identic representations made to the Porte on the 5th instant.

I understand that my colleagues have agreed to accept this communication as a recognition by the Porte of the accord which exists between the six Powers, but, as it is unnecessary for me to point out to your Lordship, copies of these orders were in reality sent to us owing to the request contained in our message of advice to the Sultan, that we should be furnished with them, as reported in my above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 609.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 834.)
Constantinople, November 21, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 707 of the 17th instant, I brought to the notice of the Sultan the praiseworthy conduct of the Mutessarif of Mush during the late disturbances there, as reported by Mr. Hampson.

The First Secretary has informed Mr. Block, in reply, that His Majesty was much pleased with my message, and intended to decorate the Mutessarif.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 610.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 835.)
Pera, November 21, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 689 of the 15th instant, I sent Mr. Block to the Palace on that day to inform the First Secretary that, according to a telegram which I had received from Her Majesty's Consul at Mush, the missionaries at Bitlis were in fear of their lives and desired to go to Van with their families.

I instructed him at the same time to state that whether the missionaries decided to leave for Van or to stay where they were, the Vali would be held responsible for their safety, and to request that immediate telegraphic orders should be sent to the authorities to give them a sufficient escort if they chose to go, or a sufficient guard if they remained in Bitlis.

The First Secretary informed me through Mr. Block on the following day that the necessary orders had been sent for their protection, and I asked Mr. Block to express my thanks for His Majesty's prompt compliance with my request.

The United States' Minister made similar representations to the Porte, and was also informed that his request had been complied with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 611.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 836.)
Constantinople, November 21, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 681, 684, 686, and 695, I have the honour to inclose copies of Memoranda by Mr. Block, reporting the various messages sent to me on the 15th and 16th instant by the Sultan in regard to the efforts made by His Majesty to execute the reforms and to repress the disorders in Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 611.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

THE Sultan's First Secretary sent again for me last night, and said the Sultan desired to know if his last message to the Marquess of Salisbury had been telegraphed, and if there was any reply. The Sultan had again yesterday given fresh instructions to the Ministers to take every means for restoring order, to have any one who is to blame punished without distinction of race or creed. His Majesty had also instructed the Ministry to ascertain what were the complaints of the people, and to suggest to him means of satisfying them, as well as to have officials who had not done their duty removed, and to appoint good men in their stead. The sum of £ T. 110,000 had been sent off that afternoon for the troops, and there were no news of fresh disturbances in the provinces. His Majesty hoped that his measures would be successful.

The First Secretary said he thought it looked as if there was a cessation of outbreaks except in the Adana district, where the Armenians had pillaged some Moslem villages, although there was no fresh news from there at the Palace.

The First Secretary then gave me the following extraordinary message from the Sultan: that His Majesty had never hesitated to accept our advice; that it had been alleged that it was he who opposed the reforms, whereas he had accepted the scheme of the 11th May, with the exception of a few clauses which he had proposed to discuss immediately that scheme was presented; that it had been alleged that the ex-Grand Vizier, Said Pasha, had repeatedly made proposals with respect to the reforms which His Majesty had refused to adopt; that this was untrue, that Said Pasha had made no single proposal, that there was no paper of his to prove such an allegation; but that, on the contrary, the Porte had on various occasions declined to carry out His Majesty's orders, and His Majesty instanced a case where he had told the Ministry to write a note to the Embassies, which the Porte refused to do, although clear proof of His Majesty's instructions remained on record.

Further, His Majesty added that he hoped any complaints and suggestions would be made to him by the Embassy, and he would at once endeavour to follow our advice. His Majesty concluded by reiterating that the inauguration of the reforms would be at once proceeded with, and that he had given instructions to the Ministers to that end.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

Constantinople, November 15, 1895.

Inclosure 2 in No. 611.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

IN accordance with your instructions, I told the First Secretary that the American Legation had just informed Her Majesty's Embassy that, according to telegraphic news just received, 4,000 Christians had been killed at Gurun (Vilayet of Sivas); that a number of villages had been burned in the neighbourhood of Mardin, that at Kharput from 500 to 800 persons had been killed, that eight out of twelve missionary buildings had been pillaged and burned, that the Kaïmakam of Hajin had threatened to burn the town; that at Sivas 800 Armenians had been killed and ten Turks. I warned His Majesty that if these disturbances and massacres continued there was every probability that the

Powers would collectively intervene, and that the result might be the disappearance of the Ottoman Empire. I used the strongest language possible to convince His Majesty of the imminent danger of the present situation. His Majesty replied that there was no news of further disturbances in the provinces; that he hoped order was now restored; that the only news from Gurun was to the effect that the Kurds had twice attacked the town, but that the Kaimakam had with the help of the troops driven them off; that from Kharput the Governor-General had telegraphed only yesterday that the Kurds and tribes in the plain of Kharput had gone away, that order had been restored, that measures had been taken to prevent the Kurds renewing their attack, that a Commission had been formed to restore the Armenians to their homes and provide for their comfort; that the Vali of Sivas had telegraphed that day to say that 130 Armenians had been killed. The First Secretary at the same time showed me a telegram addressed to the Sultan by the villagers of the Moslem villages of Beehan, Kourtel, and Kurther, consisting respectively of fifty-six, fifty-seven, and eight houses, stating that Armenians in large numbers had attacked their villages, had pillaged and burnt them, that some of the men (Moslems) had been burnt alive, that the Armenians had cut off the breasts of the women and strangled the children, and they prayed the Sultan for help. The First Secretary showed me a telegram also from Marash, stating that at Chonkour Hissar the Armenians had killed eighty men and wounded fifteen, and that troops were being sent to restore order.

During the night the Sultan again sent for me, and this morning, by His Majesty's orders, the First Secretary informed me that the Ministers had been at the Palace till 5 this morning, and all the Valis had been called to the telegraph offices; that under His Majesty's personal supervision communication had been held with them, and they had received fresh instructions, warnings, threats, &c., to maintain or restore order. The First Secretary said that there was no fresh news since yesterday, and it seemed as if tranquillity had been re-established. The Commandant at Kharput had telegraphed that at that place 150 Christians had been killed, 10 wounded; 37 Moslems killed and 18 wounded, as well as two soldiers killed, that the Kurds had been driven off, and that confidence had been restored; that 119 Christian families had been protected in the "dépôt," that the American missionaries had been protected by soldiers, and that numbers of Christians had taken refuge and had been protected in the mosques and in Moslem houses; that the Kurds were now some two or three hours distant, and that 100 of them or more had been arrested. The First Secretary showed me a telegram from Jurun, to the effect that 1,000 Christians had been protected and had now returned to their homes; the Kaimakam had been asked to state the number of killed, and his report was expected; in fact, all the Valis, Mutessarifs, and Governors had been instructed to send reports of numbers killed and wounded, either Moslem or Christian.

The First Secretary showed me also a telegram from Diarbekir, saying quiet existed at Mardin, Ljé, Sichan (?), Direk, Severek, Chirnek, Jeziré, and Midiat; only at Silvan had the Kurds attacked the town, but had been driven off.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

Constantinople, November 16, 1895.

Inclosure 3 in No. 611.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

(Extract.)

BUT it was necessary that the discontented Armenians should know that England will not help them further to realize their dreams and aspirations, and will not demand further privileges for them. His Majesty therefore begs that Lord Salisbury will instruct the Embassy and the Consuls to inform all Armenians, from the Patriarch downward, that it is no use their looking for further exceptional privileges. His Majesty begs that an end should be put to their illusions that by a Congress or intervention they will obtain autonomy or anything more than they have already got. This would have a good effect if the Armenians could be made to remain quiet; at present they go about boasting that the English fleet is to be increased by six ships, that the French fleet is coming to the Levant, and thus by all kinds of illusions and beliefs are a source of disquietude, thinking that whatever is being done by Europe is for their special benefit. If they could be made to understand that the first thing before reforms can be put into force is to restore order and tranquillity, and that if they do not remain quiet they will not be able to get the reforms, it would have a good effect. Whilst His Majesty is making every effort and sacrifice to re-establish order, the Armenians continue aspiring to and talking of further privileges; this renders His Majesty's task much more difficult, and if once they could be made to understand through their spiritual Chiefs or otherwise—Lord Salisbury knows best in what manner—that they must be contented and remain quiet, Mussulman effervescence would die away, and the task of restoring order and commencing reforms much simpler.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

Constantinople, November 16, 1895.

No. 612.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 836 A.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 21, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the text of a message which was sent me by the Sultan on the night of the 13th November, with a request that I would at once forward it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 612.

Message from His Majesty the Sultan.

I AM very grateful for Lord Salisbury's message with regard to the assistance he is ready to afford me, and I desire Mr. Herbert to convey my sincere thanks for the same, and for the expressions of friendship in that message. I have, however, seen a résumé of a speech of Lord Salisbury, in which this phrase occurs: "I have little confidence that the promised reforms will be executed." This statement has pained me very much indeed, as the carrying out of the reforms is a matter decided upon by me, and, further, I am desirous of executing them as soon as possible. I have already repeatedly told my Ministers so. This being so, the only reason why Lord Salisbury should thus throw doubts on my good intentions must be the intrigues of certain persons here, or else false statements have been made to cause such an opinion. The execution of reforms is absolutely decided upon, but it is first necessary that quiet should exist in the country. The most complete measures have been taken, and are being taken, to restore order and re-establish tranquillity. There is no doubt that the result of these measures will soon be apparent, if they have not already become so.

For instance, at Trebizond, Erzeroum, Bitlis, and Diarbekir, there have been no fresh disorders for some days past. But I repeat I will execute the reforms. I will take the paper containing them, place it before me, and see myself that every article is put in force. This is my earnest determination, and I give my word of honour. I wish Lord Salisbury to know this, and I beg and desire that his Lordship, having full confidence in these declarations, will make another speech by virtue of the friendly feeling and dispositions he has for me and my country. I shall await the result of this message with the greatest anxiety. I further ask that the Embassy will itself advise the Armenians, and instruct its Consuls to advise them in the strongest manner possible, to remain satisfied with the reforms, as Lord Salisbury says in his speech that they should be, and to keep quiet. And they ought to be made to understand that the reforms cannot be carried out if they create disturbances.

No. 613.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 837.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 21, 1895.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 723 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Block, reporting the message which the Sultan sent

to me in reply to the communication which, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I made to His Majesty on that day, expressing the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Zeitounlis would be treated with clemency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 613.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

IN accordance with your instructions, I showed Lord Salisbury's message concerning the Zeitounlis to the Grand Vizier, and afterwards delivered the same to the First Secretary for transmission to the Sultan.

The Sultan replied that his illustrious ancestors and predecessors had never failed to show clemency to those who submitted and asked for pardon; he himself had always followed the same course, as could be proved by numbers of instances. At the same time, every one must know how the Zeitounlis had acted and were acting at the present moment. If pardon is to be extended to them, it must be done in such a way as not to sully the honour of the Ottoman Government. His Majesty could not under the circumstances make the first advances. The Zeitounlis should apply to the Government or the Commandant. In any case, the Sultan had already given orders to the military and civil authorities in the provinces to use their efforts to restore order by conciliatory means; to treat the submissive with clemency, and not to harm those who did not resist the troops. His Majesty would now instruct the Commandant of Marash, who was ready to march with artillery, to wait two days; if the Zeitounlis submit when the troops advance, will give up their arms without further hostilities, will give up also those guilty of outrages to be tried by the Tribunals and punished, the affair will end; if not, the Zeitounlis must take the consequences.

The Sultan in return desires something from Lord Salisbury. His Majesty has had no answer yet to his last messages, nor has Lord Salisbury done what His Majesty asked him to do. His Majesty has stated again and again that he will carry out the reforms without delay; if any difficulty arises he will consult the Powers as to the manner of overcoming it; by this His Majesty does not mean that difficulties may prevent the reforms being carried out, nor does he wish to shelter himself behind any such excuse; if any one has such an idea, His Majesty strongly protests against it from this moment.

Lord Salisbury has publicly stated that he had no confidence that His Majesty would carry out the reforms. The Sultan now desires Lord Salisbury to say, in view of the declarations and promises so often reiterated by the Sultan, that his Lordship has confidence in the Sultan's good faith with regard to the reforms.

Further, His Majesty stated that "there was a rumour that the 'stationnaires' were to be increased." This would cause people to talk, and might excite the mind of the public, and thus prevent the attainment of that tranquillity which the Sultan was endeavouring to establish with a view to the prompt execution of the reforms. He trusted Lord Salisbury would not increase the "stationnaires."

Lastly, the Sultan again desired Lord Salisbury to give strong advice to the Patriarch to exhort the Armenians to remain quiet and satisfied with the reforms.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

Constantinople, November 20, 1895.

No. 614.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 838.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 22, 1895.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 674 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, having received a telegram from Mr. Martin on the 18th instant stating that the town of Hadjin was being looted by Mussulmans; people were being killed, and that the missionaries were in danger, I brought the matter to the notice of the Grand Vizier, and informed his Highness at the same time that I should hold the Kaimakam of Hadjin responsible for any disorders which might occur there.

His Highness replied that telegraphic instructions would at once be sent to the Kaimakam to maintain order, and he also stated that the Vali of Adana had been ordered to find another Kaimakam and send him to Hadjin.

I trust that this order will be carried out, as the present Kaimakam has a bad reputation, and representations in regard to his conduct towards the missionaries have already been made by the United States' Minister and myself to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 615.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 839.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 22, 1895.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 729 of the 20th instant, I communicated the information contained in Mr. Barnham's telegram of the same date in regard to the disturbances at Marash to the Turkish Government who have received the following telegram from the Vali of Aleppo giving this version of the outbreak:—

"Although the spiritual chiefs and Notables of the Christian population were over and over again counselled and exhorted to keep quiet, and although the strongest assurances were given them, the Christians declined to open their shops to Moslems, and by their action showed that they would not cease from bringing about a disturbance. During the night a Moslem, and in the morning several soldiers and gendarmes were murdered, and firing took place from the houses. Brigadier-General Zuer Pasha and Major Ali Effendi had the streets patrolled with soldiers and gendarmes, and to a certain extent restored quiet. Fire was set to the town in three or four places, but was extinguished and guards were placed within and without the bazaar in various quarters. Firing still continued from time to time, but the disturbance was eventually quelled and measures were taken to prevent any recurrence of it. The number of dead and wounded will be ascertained and reported later."

The Turkish Government have denied the rumour which reached the United States' Legation here that Marash had been bombarded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 616.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 840.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 22, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a telegram from Shakir Pasha, published in the "Sabah," stating that Hussein Pasha, of Patnotz, is to be tried by court martial. The misdeeds of this individual are notorious, and are referred to in Mr. Graves' despatch No. 41 of the 8th June, 1894, copy of which was sent to the Foreign Office in Sir P. Currie's despatch No. 307 of the 22nd of the same month.

Mr. Block has been informed by the First Secretary that the Sultan has censured the Commandant of Mush and the Vali of Sivas for not preventing the outbreaks at these places, and the Major commanding at Guran has also been placed under arrest for his conduct during the disorders there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 616.

Extract from the "Sabah" of November 20, 1895.

(Traduction.)

COPIE d'un télégramme reçu de son Excellence Shakir Pacha, chargé de l'inspection des provinces Asiatiques se trouvant à Erzeroum :—

"Je suis arrivé à Erzeroum le 2 (14) Novembre, 1895. Les plaintes du Catholicos d'Aghtamar disant que certains villages dans les Vilayets de Van et de Bitlis ont été pillés, ne sont que les dégâts et les dommages causés précédemment par Hussein Pacha Haidaranli et dont j'avais déjà informé votre Excellence. Le pillage avait complètement cessé lorsque je me suis rendu à Khouns, et le Vali de Van m'informe que les effets et objets enlevés ayant été repris, on a procédé à les restituer à leurs propriétaires.

"Conformément à la teneur de l'Iradé Impérial, le dit Pacha sera jugé d'après la loi martiale et recevra la punition qu'il mérite.

"Comme dans ces parages, rien n'est arrivé de la part des régiments Hamidiés qui soit contraire à la volonté Impériale, à part les Haidaranlis, les plaintes du dit Catholicos, dans leur ensemble, ne sont donc pas conformes à la vérité.

Le 4 (16) Novembre, 1895.

No. 617.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 841.)

Constantinople, November 22, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 738 of to-day, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I received a visit at 3 o'clock this morning from Ismail Kemal Bey, who had, he told me, been sent to me by the Sultan.

Ismail Kemal Bey, who is a follower of Midhat, and who has for some time past been pressing the Sultan to change his policy, began by stating that His Majesty was disgusted with Russia, in whom he had hitherto trusted, and now wished to turn to England and adopt a more liberal policy. His Majesty was accordingly seriously contemplating publishing a "Hatt" confirming all previous "Hatts" promulgated by former Sultans from that of Gulhané to the present day, and making proposals to the Powers for assistance in establishing a more liberal form of government. If, he went on to say, I would give him an assurance that our demand for a second "stationnaire" would be withdrawn, he was convinced that His Majesty, who was under the impression that the presence of extra "stationnaires" was intended as a personal menace, would at once act on his advice and take the above steps.

I replied to Ismail Kemal Bey that I had no doubt that His Majesty would be quite right in taking his advice, and I was sure a change in His Majesty's policy such as was contemplated would have an excellent effect in restoring confidence. The Powers were, however, absolutely determined to insist on their right to call up second "stationnaires" here immediately. There was no question of personally threatening the Sultan, and their dispatch here was only meant to tranquillize the foreign colonies, and restore confidence among them. If there was any delay in granting the Firmans, the question, which was now a small one, might be magnified, and the news that His Majesty was raising difficulties would excite public opinion both here and in Europe. It was therefore in His Majesty's interest to let the boats come up to Constantinople without any further delay.

Ismail Kemal Bey then asked me whether, if His Majesty made these proposals to the other Ambassadors, I would authorize him to state that I would support His Majesty's request that the "stationnaires" should not be insisted upon.

I stated that my colleagues were absolutely united in insisting upon the necessity for the dispatch of second "stationnaires" at once, and that I could not for a moment think of acting independently. I further pointed out that such proposals, if made at all, should be made to all the Embassies, and not to this one alone.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 618.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 842.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 22, 1895.

ON the 15th instant a persistent rumour spread among the Armenians of Constantinople that officials from the Palace and police had been visiting the houses inhabited by Armenians in Pera, Stamboul, and the suburbs, and making a list, with a view to a general massacre.

It was further stated that a meeting of Armenian Notables had been held, and that it was in contemplation to send a deputation to the Russian Ambassador begging for his intervention.

There seemed to be no doubt that inquiries such as those described were being made, as the house of an Armenian employé of this Embassy was visited by persons whose exact official status was not known, but who behaved as if they had a right to question the inhabitants. The Russian Ambassador had also information that the priests of an Armenian church in Galata had been interrogated respecting their parishioners, which looked as if something more was going on than an ordinary collection of rates and taxes.

I accordingly sent a message to the Sultan, through His Majesty's First Secretary, in which, after mentioning the rumours current, I said that, whether they were true or not, the Armenians were undoubtedly in a state of panic which constituted a menace to public tranquillity, and imperatively demanded the adoption of reassuring measures. I further reminded His Majesty of the union of the Powers, and warned him that any fresh disturbances in Constantinople might bring about an European intervention and endanger the existence of the Ottoman Empire.

His Majesty replied he knew nothing of the report, but would make inquiries of the Minister of Police. He subsequently sent a second message to the Embassy saying that the Minister of Police had officially reported there was no truth in the rumours. It would appear that in a secret report the Minister ascribed the agitation to the conduct of an Armenian who had dressed up as a Mahommedan fruit-seller and gone about taking notes of Armenian houses.

The next day the Grand Vizier called on me, and I drew his attention to these disquieting rumours, and urged that some notice should be published in the papers to restore confidence among the Armenians. The Russian Ambassador spoke to his Highness in the same sense, and also made strong representations to the Minister of Police.

In the next few days several inspired articles of a generally reassuring character appeared in the Turkish press, but no particular reference was made to this story of the registration of Armenian houses, and the rumours of preparations for a massacre continued.

M. de Nélidoff took the matter much to heart, because the mysterious officials in the pursuit of their inquisitorial inquiries did not spare the sister of the wife of his Third Dragoman, and when that lady asked their reasons, replied, "You will know in a day or two." Accordingly, on the 20th November, the Dragomans of the Russian, French, and British Embassies made another representation to the Sultan's First Secretary, requesting the insertion of an official Notice in the papers of the capital to calm the apprehensions of the Armenians.

The Sultan sent back a reply through his Secretary, saying he would order the Prefect of the town to discover and punish the offenders, and also give orders for the publication of the required Notice in the papers next day.

I inclose a translation of this communication. It is characteristic that the word "Armenian" does not occur in it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 618.

Extract from the "Sabah" of November 21, 1895.

Communication Officielle.

(Traduction.)

AYANT appris que ces jours-ci une ou deux personnes se sont livrées à des actes d'agitation en enregistrant les maisons dans certaines localités et les personnes qui y demeurent, et comme ces actes n'ont d'autre but que celui de donner lieu à de vains propos, nous venons porter à la connaissance du public que l'autorité Impériale, à la suite des recherches qu'elle a faites, vient d'arrêter les individus en question, lesquels seront traduits en justice pour qu'il soit sévi contre eux conformément à la loi.

No. 619.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 844.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 22, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Smyrna respecting the feeling of insecurity existing at the present moment in Smyrna, and pointing out the advisability of dispatching a ship of war to that port.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 619.

Consul-General Holmwood to Mr. Herbert.

Smyrna, November 19, 1895.

Sir,

ALTHOUGH this district has hitherto enjoyed an almost complete immunity from disquieting events such as have recently caused anxiety for the safety of foreigners residing in Turkey, isolated instances have occurred that have produced some perturbation among the foreign community here.

It has been unnecessary to trouble our Embassy regarding these matters, as Mahommedan feeling did not show any signs of fanaticism.

There now, however, appears to be a sudden change in the general demeanour of the Turks, especially those of the lower classes, for insult, menace, accompanied sometimes by robbery and violence, are reported to me daily; but at present these acts have only occurred in the absence of the police.

The British Levantines are a timid race, and though the leaders of their community are persistently pressing upon me their apprehension of a rising against the Christians, I do not attach any serious importance to their representations.

Under ordinary conditions the Christians resident in the principal towns of this province are quite able to protect themselves, but at this moment there are some 8,000 Redifs quartered in Smyrna, and these are far from being under sufficient discipline or control to render them a safe support to the authorities in the event of a disturbance arising, and were they to join with the large Muhajir colony and the Turkish rabble, very serious consequences might undoubtedly ensue.

Though very desirous to avoid anything which might encourage the false alarms so prevalent among this community, I feel that, in face of the present unsettled state of the Ottoman Empire, any slight accident might just now rouse disorder too suddenly for the resources of the local authorities to deal with, and it might therefore be advisable that one or more ships from our squadron should proceed to Smyrna without delay.

I suggest this measure in view of the probability that our vast commerce with this port will suffer from the present feeling of insecurity, rather than from a belief that there is any imminent danger.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. HOLMWOOD.

No. 620.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 845.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 22, 1895.

WITH reference to Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 537 of the 27th October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond giving his views as to the origin of the disturbances at Gumush-Khaneh.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 620.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Trebizond, November* 15, 1895.

ON the 26th ultimo I telegraphed to the Embassy the fact that on the day preceding a disturbance had occurred at Gumush-Khaneh.

It now seems, from independent and reliable sources of information, that the affair was an unprovoked attack on the Armenians in the town and villages around.

The Vali's version, however, does not confirm this altogether. He wishes me to believe that the killing and sacking arose out of a spirit of retaliation felt by the Mussulman populace on hearing that a Turk was fired at in the street by an Armenian, shortly after a rumour had received credence to the effect that an invalided gendarme had died of a drug sold by an Armenian chemist.

In the town itself, the number of persons killed is variously estimated from ten to thirty, the lower figure being the one given to me by the Governor-General. I am told that seven Turks lost their lives in assaulting the house of the rich Armenian, Hadji Nishan. The building was subsequently destroyed by fire and all its inmates either shot or burnt. The losses sustained by the villages are not known, but it is generally believed there were many deaths, and the looting was as complete as that in the town.

The Sandjak of Gumush-Kaneh has a population of about 118,500 souls, of which 2,500 are Armenians. Forming as they do a very small minority, it would be suicidal on their part, one would think, to raise a hand against the Moslems. The authorities, however, are inclined to take, on apparently insufficient evidence, the one-sided view that in all Armenian communes, large and small, there are a number of men who are ready to make martyrs of themselves and their people. Such blind patriotism, calculated to extinguish the whole race, does not seem incredible to them. Even the Vali, from the contents of some intercepted letters written mostly in invisible ink, is convinced that such is the case, though who these desperate characters are within this vilayet, he does not pretend to know positively. The letters, if really compromising, are very likely such as may prove, I think, the existence among the Armenians of not an active but a passive disaffection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 621.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 846.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 22, 1895.

INFORMATION has been received by most of the Embassies to the effect that at the Council of Ministers held on Sunday last it was decided to send the following telegram to Zeki Pasha, commanding the 4th Corps d'Armée at Erzinghian:—

"The European Powers, in view of the disturbances, have decided to interfere actively in the internal affairs of the Ottoman Empire, having even decided the precise form in which this intervention is to take place. If [illegible] not stopped within a very short time the Empire will be placed politically in a very dangerous

position. Consequently, you are instructed to attack the insurgents in three columns within three or four days' time. Those who do not submit, whoever they may be, are to be attacked and destroyed."

Zekí Pasha is to direct the operations, with Abdullah and Saadeddin Pashas, recently sent from here, under his orders.

Some persons regard the instruction as directed against the Kurds, but most of my colleagues are of opinion that the insurgents referred to are Armenians.

I have, &c,
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 621*.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 847.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 22, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of two letters giving an account of recent events in the Vilayet of Sivas, which I have received from an English resident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 621*.

Letter addressed to Mr. Herbert.

Your Excellency, *Kerassunde, November* 16, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to submit to you a slight résumé of what has occurred in the Vilayet of Sivas since the 28th October.

The late Mutessarif of Kara-Hissar left on the 24th October (at night-time, crossing the mountains instead of taking the main road) with an escort of forty-one zapiehs, leaving the town in charge of his Vekil, the Cadi.

On Sunday, the 27th October, looting commenced outside Kara-Hissar, but no loss of life. Monday the 28th a slight massacre of Armenians at Tamzara, seventeen killed in the morning. (Tamzara is distant one hour from Kara-Hissar.) Wednesday, the 30th October, took place the big massacre at Tamzara, 250 killed (all Armenians). At Kara-Hissar twenty-one only were killed, as nearly all the Armenians took refuge in their church and Dash-Khanné on Monday, having heard of the slight massacre at Tamzara on the 28th.

The new Mutessarif arrived at Kara-Hissar on Friday, the 1st November, when all carnage was stopped.

During the absence of a Mutessarif (25th October to 31st October) the large district named Ova, about 60 kilom. square, and comprising fifty villages (Armenian) has been laid waste and the majority of the inhabitants killed (their throats cut like fowls).

This district (Ova) comprises the following large villages, ranging from one to nine hours from Kara-Hissar:—

Chirtak (two hours from Kara-Hissar) 400 inhabitants formerly. Now six women remain.

Perk, seven hours from Kara-Hissar, one hour from Endires, 400 houses. Now in complete ruins. Burnt down. Refugees shot as they tried to escape.

Abana, Sevendik, Kuchuk Isbedir, Buyuk Isbedir, Sherkuyar, majority of inhabitants killed or dead from exposure on the mountains.

Endires, large town, only few hundreds killed, many having made their escape to mountains.

Kara-Hissar. One woman and two girls were taken away from this.

At Endires the throats of two town Greeks were cut (possibly mistaken for Armenians). Their names are Statius (Cafeji) and Theodore.

At Tamzara there are now about 500 women and girls starving.

Many of the dead were lying in the streets for two days, and the bodies of many only loosely covered with earth, that the dogs (at Tamzara) were eating them. An order has now been given to kill the dogs as they say hydrophobia is probable. During the period of these massacres all the Greek inhabitants at Kara-Hissar slept either at their Despot's house or in their church, thirty soldiers being told off to escort them (men, women, and children) at sunset to their places, and at sunrise to their homes to prepare their food, &c.

The many hundreds of refugees in the mountains were sought for night and day. Many who were concealed by friendly Greek villagers, even Turkish villagers were ruthlessly butchered, the houses of the Greeks being forced open, and the Greeks or Turks compelled to deliver up their charges.

Pillage and looting had more to do with these massacres than fanaticism.

A true reign of terror now exists amongst all the Christians; they fear their turn may come at any moment. The suspense is terrible.

On Tuesday the 5th November the exodus of the Armenians from their Dash Khanné commenced at Kara-Hissar, delivering up what arms they possessed to the authorities. The Mutessarif promising them efficient protection.

At a village named Bronssard (Armenian), one and a-half hours from Kara-Hissar, the people who were not cut up retreated to a Greek village named Ovadjik, a half-hour distant. The Turks stripped the women and children, and girls, leaving them only their drawers (pantaloons). At villages of Yaiga and Merkel same things occurred. All that I have written I can produce a thousand witnesses to testify to. I could write very much more, but there is a steamer leaving Kerassunde in a few minutes. A week ago I dared not write, as all letters from our region are intercepted. Many of my letters have been sent back to Kara-Hissar in company with those of the merchants of that town. I have taken the first opportunity of riding to the coast without exciting suspicion. Everybody is saying: What will happen next.

It is a good sign, that so far no massacre has taken place in Sivas or Tara. The Vali of Sivas is a most just and humane man, and if only strong enough, and nothing happens to him, I have great hopes he will be able to prevent bloodshed there.

Our new Mutessarif (Kara-Hissar) is also a capable man, I think, but the soldiers he has at his disposal are inadequate to suppress the rising fanaticism of a crowd of blood-thirsty ruffians, 5,000 strong, armed *cap-à-pie*. At a very rough estimate of 5,000 Armenians killed in the district I have above referred to, it does not say much for a race that has been agitating for autonomy, that only one Turk has been killed (at least to my belief).

Many Armenians were armed, but when it came to striking a blow in defence of their homes and wives, they could not draw the trigger, either of gun or revolver.

The Armenians about two months ago certainly gave a certain amount of provocation at Kara-Hissar and Tamzara by closing their shops and causing all business to be suspended for thirty-five days for a very trivial affair, but it is indeed terrible to see thousands of innocent men butchered, and their wives and little ones starving, all for the acts of a few revolutionnaires.

It appears these massacres (in our vicinity) started at Erzinghian and Gumush Khaneh.

Nobody dreamt of sleeping for ten days. Should anything serious happen at Constantinople, such as a revolution or war, &c., the Greeks or rather Christians in the country fear they will share the same fate as the Armenians. Should anything like this happen, action must be prompt, although during the Russo-Turkish war, the Greek and Armenian subjects of the Turkish Empire were in nowise molested.

I have, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 621*.

Letter addressed to Mr. Herbert.

Your Excellency, *Kerassunde, November* 19, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to confirm my letter of the 16th instant. I omitted to mention therein that, after the massacre in our Kara-Hissar district, the Turkish authorities required the Greeks to sign a Mazbata to the effect that the Armenians provoked the slaughter by first attacking and killing several Turks. In order to save their own necks they decided to sign, and did so.

It is utterly untrue that the Armenians gave the slightest provocation on this occasion. It was a deliberately planned affair for their extermination in our district. I have examined unimpeachable witnesses, and am in a position to prove all that I have written. But should a Commission (European) be sent to inquire into these massacres,

soldiers or Lindjackets (Europeans) should accompany it, otherwise witnesses (as many thousands as you require, entirely excluding any stray Armenians) might be afraid to tender their evidence. I myself have seen and witnessed such heartrending scenes, that I am half-distracted. The entire English staff of our two mines (three in number) has deserted, or, to be precise, begged permission to retire on account of the critical situation, and the extreme jeopardy of life. The turn of the Armenians has passed, the turn of the other Christians may come at any minute. I am in a position to name the real promoters (amongst our local authorities) of these massacres in one vilayet of Sivas, also the villages, even the villagers who took the initiative in this affair, and the greater part of the butchering. I can myself give evidence and produce witnesses that the Government zaptiehs took part in these massacres. Until the past month, I have been a staunch admirer and supporter of the Turks, and knew they had been grossly maligned by Europe, especially by the English press. Many lies had been written and said about them.

Yesterday I received news from Turkish muleteers and others, which I have every reason to believe authentic, that the massacre had spread to the town of Sivas itself, also to Amasia. I should estimate the population of Sivas itself to be 25,000, of which some 1,000 would be Armenians. But few Greeks live there. Should this news prove true, from my knowledge of the Vali, and what I have heard of his being a humane and just man, and never accepting backsheesh, it would appear that the order to butcher came from high quarters, say Constantinople.

But at Sivas there are two Consuls, the American (Dr. Jewitt), and the French. Doubtless, although the wires would be cut, and all letters intercepted (as in our district), the news would reach you about the 23rd instant, as it is stated to have taken place on Thursday the 14th.

I have, &c.

No. 622.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 849.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 22, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a document communicated to me by the French Ambassador, containing statistics, which he has received from his Consul at Diarbekir, of the numbers of killed and wounded, and of houses burnt and pillaged, during the riots in that town.

There is considerable discrepancy between the figures given in this document and the first estimate of the French Consul, who, as I informed your Lordship in my telegram No. 678 of the 14th instant, had originally reported to his Embassy that the victims at Diarbekir numbered 5,000, 2,000 killed inside the town and 3,000 outside.

The French Consul at Sivas has reported that over 300 people were killed there, and that the pillaging of shops and houses has been so extensive that there is every reason to fear a famine. At Gurun, south of Sivas, the same official reported that 2,000 Kurds had besieged and were menacing 4,000 Armenians.

On the 12th November I informed your Lordship (telegram No. 650) that the United States' Minister had heard from his Vice-Consul at Sivas that a serious massacre had occurred at Malatia, in the Vilayet of Sivas, and that four Jesuits had been killed there. On the following day Mgr. Azarian called at this Embassy and formally requested our intervention in consequence of the alleged murders of Catholic priests. His Beatitude informed me that he had addressed a similar request to all the other Embassies with the exception of the Russian, which he regarded as hostile to Catholicism.

I am glad to be able to state that this report of the death of the four Jesuits proves to be untrue. It appears that no French or other foreign subjects have been touched in any of the massacres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 622.

STATISTICS received from the French Consul at Diarbekir, November 1895.

	Morts.	Blessés.	Maisons pillées.	Boutiques pillées et incendiées.
Arméniens Grégoriens	1,000	250	1,500	2,000
.. Catholiques	10	11	36	65
Syriens-schismatiques ..	(Déclarés 36) En réalité 150	11	35	200
.. Catholiques	3	1	6	30
Chaldéens	14	0	58	78
Grecs	3	3	15	15
Protestants	11	1	51	00
Total	1,191	286	1,701	2,348

Disparus 1,000
Villageois Chrétiens travaillant dans la ville de toutes les communautés morts ou disparus 1,000
Filles ou femmes enlevées dans la ville 1,000
119 villages du sandjak pillés et incendiés. 50
Pertes matérielles en ville plus de 2 T. 2,000,000.

No. 623.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 851.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 23, 1895.*

AS I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship in my telegram No. 736 of the 21st instant, the Ephors of the Armenian Church in Pera sent to the Embassy the evening before last to inform me that placards, written in Armenian and Turkish, had been posted that day in Psamatia, a suburb of Stamboul.

The first warned the Armenians that they were going to be attacked, and urged them to take measures at once to arm and defend themselves; the second was addressed also to the Armenians informing them that if they made any movement they would be exterminated. The Ephors added that panic prevailed among the Armenians in consequence of these placards, and that a large number of their shops would be closed on the following day.

In view of this information, I at once sent Mr. Block to the Palace, and desired him to point out to the Sultan, through the First Secretary, how dangerous any disturbances in Constantinople would be at this moment, and to request His Majesty to cause immediate steps to be taken to insure order and to tranquillize both parties. At the same time I requested M. Stavrides to make a similar communication to the Minister of Police in Stamboul.

His Majesty replied that he would at once send categorical orders to the Minister of Police to take every possible precaution to prevent an outbreak. His Majesty did not believe that the Moslems would attack the Christians, but the Minister of Police would be called upon to redouble his vigilance. In His Majesty's opinion this was a move of the Armenian Committees who desired to create disturbances and attract attention, and he therefore suggested that I should advise the Armenian Patriarch to give good advice to his flock and urge them to keep quiet.

I accordingly sent for the Patriarch's Secretary early yesterday morning, and requested him to ask his Beatitude from me to do all in his power to prevent any disturbances on his side.

I have the honour to inclose copy of an official communication which, owing to my representations, was published in yesterday's papers with the view of tranquillizing both parties. The words "neighbours" and "fellow-countrymen" have not been applied to the Armenians for some years past, and this communication has created a very good effect among them.

The Minister of Police has since sent a message to the Embassy to say that the story of the placards is only an invention, but there appears to be no doubt that such placards were posted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 623.

Extract from the "Sabah" of November 22, 1895.

(Translation.)

INFORMATION has been received by the Government to the effect that placards containing threats both on the part of the Armenians against the Mussulmans and from the latter against Armenians, had been posted up in certain streets in the direction of Psamatia, and that certain persons had got into a state of alarm on that account. Now it is obvious that this is the work and concoction of evil-disposed persons, both for the reason that there is no former instance of aggressive conduct on the part of the Mussulmans, and also because there is no cause or state of things which would lend probability to such conduct now. Nor has it ever occurred to the mind or imagination of the latter to place themselves in opposition to the dictates of humanity with regard to the Christians who are their neighbours and fellow-countrymen. Further, good relations between the classes of the population have continued up to the present, and in particular as regards the police force the greatest care is ordained, and it is a fixed order that no occasion for any act of aggression of one class of the population against another is to be allowed, and that all persons committing such acts shall be admonished and corrected. This being so, it is evident, as stated above, that the authors of the above publications are a set of evil-disposed persons who are striving to inspire suspicion among the people, and to create troubles in the country. It is announced, therefore, that, the truth being known, every one can attend to his business with his mind at ease, and that, as the Government is in search of the evil-disposed persons, the authors of this kind of seditious concoctions, any one who may facilitate their capture by giving information to the Government will be rewarded, and will besides receive overwhelming marks of the Imperial favour.

No. 624.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 852.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 25, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, transmitting a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting extensive raids by Kurds near that town, and also an encounter between zaptiehs and a band of revolutionists near Boghaz-Kessen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 624.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Erzeroum, November 11, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to send you a copy of a despatch received by me from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting extensive raids by Kurds near that town, and the flight of Armenian villagers.

Mr. Hallward also mentions an encounter between zaptiehs and a band of revolutionists, in which one of the latter was killed, near Boghaz-Kessen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 624.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Van, November 6, 1895.*

A LARGE number of Armenian families fled from their villages in the Adeljevas district and came on the 31st ultimo to various villages on this side of the lake. They had been stripped of everything, including most of their clothes, by the Haideranli Kurds, under the direction of Emin and Tamir Pashas. The Kurds came in large numbers with waggons, which they loaded with the spoil of the villages, and at the same time drove off all the cattle and sheep which they could find, but they did not kill any one except those that resisted; in the village of Arrine some resistance was made, and I am told that nine men were killed and others wounded. Eighteen villages in that district were sacked.

The same thing began in the Arjish district on the 1st instant. The Monastery of Mezope was plundered of its books and ornaments, and also of its sheep. This was done by Hassan Aga, Emin Pasha's father. Two men and a woman were killed in the village of Pani in that district. The Armenian tradesmen of Arjish, with two exceptions, have shut up their shops and come to Van.

I hear that ten villages in that district were plundered by the Kurds, also of the Haideranli tribe, relations and friends of Hussein Pasha. At present complete anarchy reigns in those districts. Two companies of soldiers have been sent from here, but I do not suppose they will do the one thing needful to secure order, viz., arrest the responsible Kurdish Chiefs.

The Armenians who have left their villages are at present quartered in other Armenian villages. Whether they and many others will manage to exist through the winter seems doubtful, unless some very decided measures are taken for their relief.

An Armenian revolutionist, who was coming to Van with several others, was killed by zaptiehs a few days ago near the village of Boghaz-Kessen, the rest escaped; two zaptiehs were wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 625.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 853.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 25, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, giving further particulars with regard to the recent disorders at Bitlis, and reporting on the critical situation at Mush.

I would call the attention of your Lordship to the firm and judicious conduct of Mr. Hampson under the difficult circumstances in which he has been placed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 625.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Mush, November 6, 1895.*

IN continuation of my despatch of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report that until now I have been unable to obtain any detailed or definite news from Bitlis. A short note from the missionaries, dated the 30th October, stated that they were still in the greatest peril, practically besieged by Kurds, and unable to leave the house or send telegrams. The bodies of seven of their former pupils had already been brought to their chapel. As to the total number of killed report varies enormously. The Turks now put it at 200 to 300, while the Armenians say it is over 1,000. The latter number will probably prove nearer the truth; I hear of over 400 bodies lying unidentified in one church. It is said that reinforcements have now arrived, so I hope that order is restored.

Here, I am thankful to say, we have so far escaped disorder. The panic and danger were very great all last week, but now I think that both are considerably diminished. I have had several long interviews with the chief inhabitants, both Mussulman and Christian, which, I think, have not been without result. The absurd suspicions of the relief work, and pretended fears of an attack from Sasun, reported in my previous despatch, grew into a very real source of danger, increased, I regret to say, by the very indiscreet way in which the Mutessarif published his anti-Protestant opinions, and refused to take any responsibility in the matter. The Turks went as far as demanding from the Christians not only the recall of the missionaries, but that they should sign a petition for my recall. This source of danger was, however, I hope, allayed by an agreement arrived at in a meeting of the principal Mussulmans and Christians, at which, on the invitation of the Mutessarif, I was present. It was then agreed that the authorities should appoint two officials to be present with the missionaries as long as the work of distribution in Sasun went on. This was really making no change in what has always been accepted by us; and it is the fault of the authorities alone if it has not been carried out. The other point agreed on was that the missionaries should return from Sasun as soon as possible, and continue the work from Mush, with occasional visits to the mountains. Against this also I had naturally nothing to say, as we had already so decided. However, the Mussulmans now appear quite satisfied.

On the whole, I think the Mutessarif is acting with energy and decision, especially when it is considered that he had only arrived here two days when the crisis began. His great error has been his indiscretion on the subject of Protestants.

The Military Commander here, Rahmi Pasha, is old, incapable, and a fanatic, and quite unfit to cope with such a situation. His removal would be most desirable.

I fear that in Boulanik and other districts the Kurds have not failed to avail themselves of this opportunity for murder and outrages of every description, though details are as yet impossible to obtain. From all sides come stories of Armenians murdered, villages pillaged, &c. But so far a general rising of the Kurds, which was much dreaded, has been prevented. This is certainly to the credit of the Mutessarif, who, though he has but few soldiers at his command, has sent out patrols in every direction. I would wish also here to mention the name of Nadir Agha, who, being sent out with a patrol to intercept Kurds who were attacking the villages of the Mush Plain, acted with great energy, and succeeded in killing two of the offenders and capturing two more. This same Nadir Agha was the only member of the Turkish Relief Committee in Sasun who displayed any energy, and is now again named as one of the officials to attend the missionaries. He is trusted by Mussulmans and Christians alike.

But the chief help in restoring order—though it is premature as yet to talk of order being restored—is undoubtedly the heavy fall of snow which took place on the night of the 2nd and on the 3rd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

P.S.—I may add that my experiences during this crisis have fully convinced me that, with the exception of intriguers and old-style officials, who do not wish for tranquillity and good government in these parts, the Mussulmans are as anxious for reforms as the Christians, if once they are allowed to understand what reforms mean. The two things needed are—good officials, and the reduction of the Kurds to order, i.e., that such officials should be provided with sufficient force.

C. S. H.

No. 626.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 856.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 26, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Commission of Control, provided for in the scheme of Armenian reforms, has commenced its sittings. It has done nothing up to the present time, and I am informed that the plan of reforms was only communicated to it yesterday.

I have also the honour to inclose translation of an official "Communiqué" which appeared in the Turkish newspapers of the 22nd instant, announcing the appointment of a second Commission of three members, under the presidency of the Minister of the Interior, for the dispatch of all business connected with the restoration of order in the provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 626.

Extract from the "Sabah" of November 22, 1895.

(Translation.)

THANKS to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, measures have been taken and acted upon, and officials have been appointed and sent for the suppression of disorder and the restoration of tranquillity. In addition, as it is the desire of His Majesty that all correspondence and business in the above connection should be conducted with all dispatch, a Commission has been formed to expedite the business entailed by the correspondence having reference to the maintenance of public order, and which is being carried on day and night between the provinces and the different public Departments, in order to restore the more quickly and completely that public order and tranquillity above referred to.

The Commission in question, which has entered upon its functions, is composed of his Excellency the Minister of the Interior, Hadji Reshid Bey Effendi, Member of the Council of State, and Nefi Effendi, Member of the Commission of Registers.

No. 627.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 858.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 26, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum respecting the critical state of affairs at Kharpout.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 627.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Erzeroum, November 11, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, I have the honour to send herewith extracts from a private letter from Kharpout on the critical state of affairs in that town and district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 627.

Extracts from Private Letter from Kharpout.

October 25.—On Tuesday, the 22nd, the Local Government received a telegram from Zekki Pasha at Erzingian, saying that the previous day there had been a riot, lasting eleven hours, "with great loss," putting the origin upon the Armenians, and warning the Government to be on its guard. This was soon known, and it produced great excitement. Letters from Erzingian, received the previous day, had prepared the minds of the people to expect such news.

The following day the authorities heard that in the village of Keserik, one hour from Mezere, the seat of Government, the Christians had closed their shops, and the Defterdar, the Acting Vali, at once sent the Taboor Aghasi, with gendarmes, and they

persuaded the people to open their shops, at the same time severely rebuking the Turks. This gave courage to the frightened Christians in other places as well. The Defterdar also called the two Bishops and entreated them to use every precaution, and he promised his best endeavours to secure the public safety. Thus the public became fairly reassured, but yesterday morning some of the Christians in the city thought they saw signs of an impending massacre, and they hastily closed their shops. The Turks were seen to be openly carrying arms, gathering in little knots, and earnestly talking with one another, and some thought they even heard them say that the work was to begin at noon. Some of the leading merchants asked me to inform the Defterdar of the situation. I at once went to Mezere and had a private interview with him, and he immediately adopted energetic measures, sending the Taboor Aghasi with zaptiehs, and a little later a company of soldiers was sent. Afterwards he sent me a telegram asking me to use my influence to have the shops opened, and to assure the people that they would have complete protection. I sent out several men to advise that the shops be opened, and quite a number were opened, although it was late in the afternoon. Still later the Chief man of the Ulema sent for me to call on him, and he also asked me to assure the Christians that he would become personally responsible that they should suffer no harm from the Moslems; and his influence is worth as much as that of the soldiers or the Government. The fanatical Turks hold him in great reverence. I hope, therefore, that the crisis is over. Yesterday's affair brought some of the leading men of both parties together to talk over affairs, and this helped to increase mutual confidence.

The Acting Vali has been in the town to-day, and he called together some of the leading men of both communities, and spoke to them in the most conciliatory way, even allowing them to use the telegraph to Mezere without charge, to make known to him their grievances, if they should have any.

October 28.—The village of Ichme, some five hours away, has a large population of both Christians and Moslems. For three years past their relations have been badly strained. The day before yesterday a special messenger came to me from the Christians saying that they regarded themselves as in great danger. I at once sent word to the Defterdar, and he dispatched a Yuzbashi with zaptiehs to the village. Another messenger came in the night, bringing a still stronger letter, as the villagers did not know that any one had been sent. To-day I shall recommend that the Taboor Aghasi be sent to the leading villages on the plain, as this fear is very general, and he is a man who can frighten the Turks.

The Christians have been slow to open their shops, but I have been through the market to-day and find that almost every shop is open. Fear, however, has not been entirely dissipated. Rumours are continually circulated that are fitted to produce disquiet.

The Alay Bey and the Taboor Aghasi have come from Chemishgezek, and the Kurds have now ventured across the river toward Kharpout, driven off several hundred sheep from the village of Ashvan, seven hours from here. It has been said several times by the Turks that if the Armenians made any trouble the Kurds would be called in. A mounted zaptieh, *en route* to the Dersim, said the other day to a Turkish Hoja and to a Christian, whom he took to be a Turk, "I am carrying an order to the Dersim that if any trouble occurs here the Kurds are to be dispatched at once." The air is full of such rumours, but we hope that after a little complete quiet will prevail.

No. 628.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 859.)
My Lord,

Pera, November 26, 1895.

THE Greek Minister called on me this morning and related the following incident.

The Minister of Justice and Public Worship recently sent for the Grand Logothete of the Œcumenical Patriarchate, and informed him that some foreign Powers intended to send fleets to Constantinople; that such a measure would excite the anger of the Mussulman populace and would probably cause disturbances; that the Sultan did not doubt it would be viewed in the same light by his Greek subjects, and that the Patriarch ought to address a representation to the Embassies deprecating the proposed step.

The Patriarch accordingly summoned his Council, which is composed of laymen as well as ecclesiastics, and suggested that some of them should join him in making the

desired communication. The Council, however, demurred, and it was agreed that before taking any action the Patriarch should send the Logothete to the Palace to ask for further explanations. This was done, and the Sultan's Secretary informed the Logothete, in reply, that the necessity for making the protest no longer existed, and that the matter might be allowed to drop.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 629.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 861.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, November 26, 1895.

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 814 of the 19th November, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, giving further particulars respecting disorders in Baiburt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 629.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Erzeroum, November 12, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th instant, I have the honour to forward the following information I have received on the disorders at and near Baiburt.

Soon after the troubles at Constantinople and Trebizond the villages and suburbs of Baiburt were pillaged. The first one to be attacked was Soushank, and the one which suffered most was Kessanta, a village of 120 houses. Many of their inhabitants were killed, including several women.

The Armenians of Baiburt, hearing of these outrages, shut their shops for several days, but on the arrival of troops from Erzingian they were induced to reopen them. On the 27th October the Mussulman population, including Kurds and Lazes, armed with guns and revolvers, and assisted by the soldiers, commenced killing the Armenians and pillaging their shops and houses, some of the latter being set on fire.

The excesses lasted eight hours. Besides several hundred men (exact number not known), there were also some women and children killed.

Churches were plundered and defiled, and the Archimandrite Khorène Guiyoran, all the schoolmasters, and several pupils were among the victims.

Several Armenians have been arrested (presumably on seditious charges), and the surviving inhabitants have been reduced to a state of utter destitution.

Nothing is said as to the attack having been provoked by the Armenians, as it is asserted by the authorities, but it is to be inferred from my informant's account that the disorders were the natural sequence of the attacks on the villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 630.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 862.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, November 26, 1895.

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 815 of the 19th November, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, giving further particulars respecting disorders at Erzingian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 630.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Erzeroum, November 12, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to send you further particulars, derived from non-official sources, concerning the disorders which occurred at Erzingian on the 21st ultimo.

The massacres and pillaging commenced at about half-past 9 and lasted till 11 in the morning, the pillaging, however, continuing till the evening. The number of Armenians killed was over 200, whilst about 400 were wounded. All the shops except twenty-three were wrecked.

Order was ultimately restored by the efforts of Zekki Pasha, who also took steps for the recovery of the stolen goods, a considerable quantity of which was brought back and deposited in the Armenian church pending its redistribution; notwithstanding this, the ruin of the Armenian community is complete, and the misery great.

Though no definite information had been received from the surrounding villages, the smoke of burning houses had been observed in several directions.

Acts of cruelty on the part of the Kurds are reported from all sides at Erzingian; but as there are no means of verifying them, as well as those coming from other quarters, I refrain from relating them, as it can serve no practical purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 631.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 863.)
Constantinople, November 26, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, reporting disorders at Arabkir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 631.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Erzeroum, November 12, 1895.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to telegraph to you this afternoon that disorders had taken place at Arabkir, in the Kharpout Vilayet, on the 10th instant.

According to the Turkish official version, the number of Armenians killed is 200, and of Turks 70.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 632.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 864.)
Constantinople, November 26, 1895.

My Lord,

A REPORT having reached this Embassy that the recent massacre at Erzeroum was organized by the authorities, that the houses of the various nationalities were marked, and that the Greeks wore white bands round their arms to distinguish them from Armenians, Mr. Herbert made inquiries of Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum as to the truth of these stories.

I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Cumberbatch in reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 632.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Erzeroum, November 14, 1895.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your telegram of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report as follows:—

There was no "organization" of the massacres that took place here on the 30th ultimo in the sense reported to Her Majesty's Embassy.

The houses and shops of the Greeks were not marked except in a few cases, and that by themselves and on their own initiative. One or two had big dauhs of red paint, some had Turkish flags or simple red flags hanging out of a window with a piece of paper attached, containing the words "Greek house," some Greeks tied pieces of red cloth over the padlocks of their shops, others wrote across the doors and shutters "Mussulman shop;" but all this was done the day after the massacres, when further pillaging was expected.

As to the white bands said to have been worn round their arms, I saw many Greeks escaping from their shops, and only one had his white handkerchief tied round his arm. He has been interrogated, and says he did it because he had heard that at Trebizond the Greeks had done so. I have made further inquiries on this point, and I can only hear of one Greek who had been seen with a white band round his head, but he was made to discard it by the police directly he showed himself in it.

Though the only non-Armenian Christian killed was a Serb, the Greeks had to flee for their lives just the same as the Armenians; but, on declaring that they were Greeks, they were not searched for arms like the latter, nor were they molested.

There were certainly no white bands worn before the massacres.

When I visited the quarter of the town where the houses had suffered the most, I went into one Greek's house which had been robbed of everything, notwithstanding the Turkish flag and the piece of paper, and I was addressed by several Greeks in the streets, who said that they, too, had been plundered.

Two or three Greek shops, one Italian pharmacy, and ten Turkish shops were looted.

A Greek friend of mine, who is on the most intimate terms with the Turkish officials, high and low, and who would have most certainly been one of the first to know of any understanding between the Turks and his co-religionists, assures me that there was no such thing. As regards himself, he was in danger just as much as any Armenian; once when he was standing by my side on the terrace of this Consulate and a bullet passed between us, and once when he was walking in the streets and an excited cavalryman rushed at him with drawn sword.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 633.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 865.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 26, 1895.

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 818 of the 19th November, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum respecting the relations of the Archbishop of that town with the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 633.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Erzeroum, November 16, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my Secret despatch of the 8th instant, I have the honour to report that, on receipt of your telegram of the 11th instant, informing me of the unlikelihood of my suggestion with regard to Mgr. Shishmanian being acted upon by the Patriarch, I decided to try once more to effect a reconciliation between the Archbishop and the local authorities as the only alternative.

I have had interviews with Raouf Pasha and Mgr. Shishmanian on the subject, and it has been arranged that the latter will call on his Excellency to-morrow.

I have reasons to hope that this will lead to the establishment of friendly relations with Shakir Pasha too.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 634.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—Received December 2.)

(No. 866.)

Constantinople, November 27, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting on the recent disturbances at Marsovan and Choroum.

With reference to the concluding portion of Mr. Fontana's despatch, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Mushir, Tewfik Pasha, has been appointed Vali of Angora, and that full information respecting his character and antecedents was sent to the Foreign Office in Sir Clare Ford's despatch No. 185 of the 8th May, 1893. He is a man of liberal views, and is suspected by the Sultan of sympathizing with the "Jeune Turquie" party, and his appointment in the provinces may perhaps be due to the Sultan's desire to remove him from the capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 634.

Acting Consul Fontana to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.)

Angora, November 21, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday's date reporting to you that disturbances had occurred in Marsovan, as well as at Choroum, in this vilayet, I now have the honour to submit, for your information, such details as I have been able to collect in connection with the incidents in question.

The authorities here report that on Friday last the Marsovan Armenians attacked the Turks in the mosques, and killed great numbers of them. (This, I would submit, is not improbable, as there are many revolutionaries in that town, and the Armenian population is said to be in excess of the Turkish.)

However, on Sunday, or, more probably, on Monday last, the Turks, eager for reprisals, and assisted by Kurds and Circassians from neighbouring villages, made a raid upon the market, the greater part of which is rented by Armenian merchants. The shops there, together with the "bedestan," or covered bazaar, the whole of which belongs to an Armenian firm of the name of Ephramosian Brothers, were looted by the Turks, and many Armenians lost their lives.

The disturbance at Choroum was, it seems, comparatively unimportant. According to information received by me from reliable sources here, two Armenians were wounded in the course of a street brawl, whereupon a panic ensued, the Armenians closed their shops, and made a general stampede for their church. The Acting Mutessarif hastened to the church and assured the fugitives that there was nothing to fear, and that they might

safely return to their homes. Up till Tuesday evening, however, they appear to have persisted in their refusal to quit their place of refuge.

As I further had the honour to report in the telegram referred to, great anxiety is rife among the Christians in all parts of this vilayet. The Armenians dread the Turks, and the various sects mistrust each other. The most trivial incident is likely to produce, even in Angora itself, a panic similar to that at Choroum, but with, very probably, far more serious consequences.

Ali Riza Pasha, the Commander of the troops in this province, who is now Acting Vali, is reputed to be a fairly satisfactory officer, but has neither the intelligence, experience, nor administrative powers requisite for the holder of a post such as he temporarily occupies. He has done his best to prevent an outbreak in Angora, but he fails to inspire any portion of the population with confidence; he has neither the tact, personal influence, nor authority over the civil functionaries elsewhere in the vilayet which Memdouh Pasha possessed. In fact, as Ali Riza Pasha told me himself, he is an officer and not an administrator; and he is not the man to keep in check the various elements which compose the provincial population.

In this town there exists a general fear, amounting even to terror, and a desire is universally felt that an official of experience, intelligence, and discretion may be elected at the earliest possible date to fill the office lately vacated by Memdouh Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 635.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 867.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 27, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah, reporting the arrest of several Bedouins in connection with the recent outrage on the Consuls.

I am urging the Porte to instruct the local authorities to take decisive action in the manner indicated by Mr. Alban.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 635.

Acting Consul Alban to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Jeddah, November 11, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo and my telegram of the 1st instant, I have the honour to state that since the 24th ultimo fifteen Bedouins have been arrested and imprisoned at Jeddah. There are now in prison here ten persons, including three important Sheikhs: Abdallah-bin-Nassel, Dakhil Allah, and Ibn Abdul Nebbi. The first-named, who resides in the neighbourhood of Jeddah, is the principal Sheikh of the Beni Malek (a sub-tribe of the Beni Harb), and daily visits this town, where he acts as broker in the purchases and sales effected by the members of his tribe. Having been summoned to Mecca by the Grand Shereef, and having failed to comply with the order, he was arrested by the Kaïmakam here acting on instructions from Mecca. Sheikhs Dakhil Allah and Ibn Abdul Nebbi of the Humrani (which is also a sub-tribe of the Beni Harb), were recently employed by the Grand Shereef in his negotiations with the alleged murderers, as reported in my despatches of the 14th and 28th ultimo respectively, and had come from Mecca to Jeddah after the failure of their mission. Of the remainder of the prisoners, six belong to the Oteyba tribe, and one to the Bishr (a sub-tribe of the Harb). Three Bedouins of the Seleim (also a sub-tribe of the Harb), a Shereef of the Beni Amr, and another Shereef, whose tribe I have been unable to ascertain, were also arrested, but have been released, and another Bedouin escaped while being taken to the prison. All the prisoners were at first confined in the local gaol, but Abdallah-bin-Wassil, Dakhil Allah, and Ibn Abdul Nebbi have recently been transferred to a room on the ground floor of the official residence of the Kaïmakam.

Numerous arrests have also been made at Mecca, the prisoners being members of the Oteyba and other tribes. Among them are, I am informed, about six Bedouins of the Sahaf tribe (a sub-division of the Beni Harb) to which the alleged murderers belong.

In addition to the above measures, an order was issued a few days ago, prohibiting the shops near the Meccn gate, to which the Bedouins resort for supplies, to sell more than one kilé of grain to any single Bedouin. This order has, during the last two days, been somewhat relaxed, but the shopkeepers are still forbidden to sell a whole sack of grain to any Bedouin.

The result of these measures was that the Bedouins, who are the carriers of the country, almost entirely abandoned Mecca and Jeddah for several days, and the traffic between these two places was almost entirely suspended, as no camels were procurable. As a result, fruit, charcoal, meat, and other necessaries became scarce and dear. During the last few days, however, a sufficient number of camels has been procured, chiefly from the Koreish tribe, to enable traffic to be resumed, but caravans are only allowed to travel by day under escort. As yet, however, no robbery has been reported on the road, which is deserted by the Harb Bedouins, who have withdrawn to the north. The Bedouins of the Harb and Oteyba tribes are, I am informed, much incensed at the arrest of their fellow-tribesmen. The Koreish tribe, has it is said, joined them in declining to assist the Grand Shereef in any military expedition.

The general opinion here is that this step, which was foreshadowed in the plan communicated by the Vali to the Consuls, as reported in Mr Lamb's despatch to Sir P. Currie of the 21st July last, will fail in what is believed to be the object of the Grand Shereef, namely, to force the numerous sections of the Beni Harb and the other tribes of the Hedjaz to assist him with men and camels against the Sahaf. It is believed that they might, if well paid, be induced to give their aid, but that the attempt to gain their co-operation by violent measures will fail entirely and will only render the capture of the alleged murderers more difficult.

I have reason to believe that the report that preparations are being actively made in Mecca for an expedition against the alleged murderers, referred to in my despatch of the 28th instant, is not correct, and matters appear to be at a standstill pending the result of the incarceration of the persons referred to above. The expected troops have not arrived from the Yemen, though I am informed that three transports are at Hodeidah waiting to embark them, and the troops now in the Hedjaz would be insufficient for an expedition unless supported by Bedouins.

I fear that, unless strong pressure be put on the local authorities, another attempt will be made to waste time over fruitless negotiations until the pilgrimage season has fairly commenced, when it will be plausibly contended that an expedition would seriously endanger the lives of the pilgrims who would then be travelling to Mecca and Medina. Although even now any military operations against the Bedouins would probably cause an inconvenient agglomeration of pilgrims here, it is not until after the end of December that pilgrims arrive in large numbers, when serious difficulties might arise through their detention here, and I therefore venture to submit that the local authorities should be urged to take decisive action at once by dispatching an expedition composed of the regular troops of the Hedjaz reinforced from the Yemen, if the incarceration of the Bedouin Sheikhs has failed in its object, as I have every reason to believe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 636.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 868.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 27, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to state that I resumed charge of Her Majesty's Embassy on the 23rd instant.

I find that a considerable change has taken place in the position of affairs during my absence.

Khalil Rifaat Pasha, the new Grand Vizier, appears to have no qualification for the office except that of having, as Minister of the Interior during the last years, been the obedient servant of the Sultan's ill-will against his Armenian subjects. He is now a complete cypher.

Memdouh Pasha, from the Vilayet of Angora, has become Minister of the Interior. Our Consular Reports show him to be a clever and unscrupulous man, who was always ready for any deed of injustice when it served to forward his personal interests.

Tewfik Pasha, the Foreign Minister, has been for some years Ambassador at Berlin. His manners are cordial and friendly, but he admits with pleasing frankness that he is entirely without influence over his Imperial Master, and that his advice is never taken.

At the Palace the change is still greater. An intriguing Syrian lawyer, named Izzet Bey, has displaced the four most trusted counsellors of the Sultan, and appears to be now His Majesty's principal if not only adviser. This man has in the course of the past year paid me several visits: at first as an emissary of the late Djevdit Pasha, and on the last occasion as a bearer of a message from the Sultan full of assurances of friendship for England. In speaking to me he professed himself an advocate of Constitutional reform; but he had the character of being a notorious spy, and was detected removing from the pockets of his friends at the Pera Club a packet which contained not only compromising letters, but bank-notes. The advancement of Izzet Bey appears to have aroused very outspoken indignation at the Palace, especially on the part of the favourites whom he has supplanted, the chief of whom are Hadji Ali Bey, Ragheb Bey, Sheikh Abul Hudar, and Sutli, the Sultan's valet.

It is said that Marshal Osman Ghazi, the hero of Plevna, who is attached to the Sultan's person, has fallen into disgrace, and was actually placed under arrest for some days after the fall of Kiamil Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 637.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 869.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 27, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a very interesting Report which I have received from Mr. Dwight, the Head of the Stamboul Bible-house, respecting the causes and probable consequences of the recent massacres in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 637.

Report by the Rev. H. Dwight respecting the Situation in Turkey in November.

(Confidential.)

WARNINGS of the recent massacres in Asiatic Turkey were:—

1. The threats of the Mahommedan population;

2. The arming of the Mahommedan peasantry, with the connivance of, and in some cases the direct aid of, Government officials;

3. The piteous entreaties of the unarmed Armenian population for protection against threatened massacre; and

4. The declarations of many Turks, in and out of office, in Constantinople, that if the reform scheme were forced upon the Sultan no Armenian should live to enjoy it.

These various warnings, regarded at the time (early in October) as not worthy of serious attention, are now seen to have an important relation to what followed them.

The massacre at Constantinople (30th September) and at Ak-hissar and at Trebizond (8th October) must also be regarded as having a relation to the after events, from the reason that the immunity allowed the participants in them cannot fail to have encouraged their repetition elsewhere.

The massacres in the six provinces named in the reform scheme, commenced at Erzinghian on the 21st October, and ended at Marsovan on the 13th November. During the interval between these two dates, in all of the principal cities and towns, and in a vast number of villages in the Provinces of Erzeroum, Bitlis, Van, Sivas, Kharput,

and Diarbekir, Armenians were killed by the hundred, and thousands of houses and shops were pillaged by Moslem civilians and soldiers.

In the six provinces 18,000 or 20,000 Armenians, chiefly males, have been killed. The number stripped of everything but the clothes on their backs probably exceeds 300,000, of whom three-fourths are women and children. These people, who have been stripped of capital, implements, food supply, furniture, and bedding, will find death from exposure and starvation staring them in the face as soon as the winter sets in.

The only important places left untouched in the six provinces appear to be the cities of Mush and Van: the first because of the influence of the British Consul upon a Mutessarif who was willing to take advice, and the second because the Armenian population is so large as to render attempts at massacre dangerous to the Turks unless made by a larger force than has yet been gathered for the purpose.

On the 25th October at Ourfa, on the 15th November at Aintab, and on the 25th October and 18th November at Marash, horrible massacres, accompanied by pillage, took place outside the six provinces named in the reform scheme.

These massacres are described in the official Reports as conflicts. In no place, within the six provinces, from which detailed reports have come through other than the Ottoman official channels, has there been any rising of Armenians, or any conflict whatever, except in the rare cases where Armenians had arms in their houses and defended themselves against massacre to the last moment. This testimony is supported by the insignificant number of Muslims killed in different places. In one province the Governor-General has admitted to a foreigner that 98 out of 100 of the Armenians who suffered were innocent of any crime. This point is not conclusively proved owing to the great efforts of the Government officials to prevent independent testimony from being heard. But the evidence that has come in, all points, along with the warnings given before the massacres began, to the probability that the massacres were prearranged, and that those engaged in them believed that they were carrying out a general order based on that provision of the Mahommedan canon law which authorizes preventive massacres of non-Mahommedan subjects, who are suspected of intending conspiracy or rebellion. No other theory will explain massacres committed in the presence of large bodies of troops, as at Erzeroum and Erzinghian.

The official declarations of the Ottoman Government would show that "order is now being restored in the provinces of Asiatic Turkey." The summons to the colours of a large force of Reserves is recited as an additional reason for optimistic views of the situation. But these Reserves are largely the very men who have perpetrated the massacres, and whose families are enriched by the vast plunder of the Armenians. They have in many cases openly declared that they will fight against Christians, but not against Muslims. And the only disturbance of the public order in the six provinces which has occurred, has been by Muslims, and not by Christians. Meanwhile, letters received from various places where massacres occurred in the latter part of October, show that the Armenians are still living in the most utter terror, threatened continually with death by their Muslim neighbours, appearing on the streets at the risk of life, hounded by the officials, who are arresting numbers of the survivors from the massacre, while leaving absolutely free from molestation all the Muslims whose hands are red with blood, and who even go to the length of threatening men with death to force them to sign papers declaring their content with the Ottoman system of administration. Furthermore, it is now known to be a fact that in some places in the Province of Kurput, Christians are at this moment meeting a martyr's death because they refuse to accept Mahommedanism, and to deny their own faith.

These things are being done in places where there are no Consuls to see, and to report. During the last two months the most awful crime of the century has been committed in Turkey. Not only has nothing whatever been done to punish the criminals, but every facility is now offered the criminals to hide their crime, and to prove to the world that "nothing has happened more than happens hundreds of times in all European countries." Already the wave of massacre is passing over into the Province of Angora, as yet untouched. The day of the reform scheme is clearly passed. Entirely different measures must now be taken if the Christians of Asiatic Turkey are to be saved from extermination. The least that can be done is to cause foreign Commissioners to visit the interior of the country in order to learn what has actually transpired, and what the nature of the problem now to be faced.

(Signed) HENRY D. DWIGHT.

Constantinople, November 27, 1895.

No. 638.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 872.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 27, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 834 of the 21st November, I have the honour to state that to-day's Gazette contains the announcement that the second class of the Osmanié has been conferred on Fehhan Pasha, Mutessarif of Mush.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 639.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 873.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 27, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith five reports which I have received from the Armenian Patriarch on the state of affairs in Asia Minor.*

These reports have obviously been compiled with the object of proving that the publication of the reforms provoked an outburst of fanaticism, and was the direct cause of the massacres which have occurred. As far as I am able to judge from the official information in the possession of this Embassy, the version given by the Patriarch is in most cases somewhat exaggerated. It is easiest to control his Beatitude's statements in the case of Erzeroum, as Her Majesty's Consul has furnished detailed accounts of the massacres which took place in that town. The Patriarch says more than 400 corpses were counted, and estimates the victims at 1,000. Mr. Cumberbatch counted more than 300 corpses, and does not seem to think the number of dead much exceeded this figure. He denies the statement that the Greeks marked their houses and wore distinctive badges, and the assertion that Shakir Pasha himself gave the signal for the beginning of the slaughter is intrinsically improbable, and has not received confirmation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 640.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 352. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November* 29, 1895.

MY recent telegrams will have shown your Lordship how thoroughly Count Goluchowski agrees in your views on the question of the Firmans for the second "stationnaires," as well as on the entire liberty of action to be left to the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

The language used by his Excellency to the Russian Ambassador, Count Kapnist—a very full report of which was given in my telegram No. 93 of the day before yesterday—in answer to the representations of Prince Lobanoff, appears to have been as downright as could well be employed. Count Goluchowski and Count Kapnist are old friends, having been colleagues for some years at Paris, where they were Councillors of their respective Embassies, and I have seen enough of Count Goluchowski to be certain that an intimacy of this kind goes very far in influencing the character of his dealings with foreign diplomatists.

His Excellency's contradiction of Prince Lobanoff's opinion, as communicated to him by Count Kapnist, seems at any rate to have been categorical. He flatly denied his belief in the Prince's suggestion, that the local Ambassadors were unduly impressed by the situation at Constantinople; and that the distant standpoint from which the Cabinets of Europe looked on enabled the latter to form a more reasonable and accurate judgment than their apprehensive Representatives. In particular, he eulogized

* Not printed.

the perspicacity of Baron Calice, and laid weight on the value of his fifteen years' experience in Turkey, and said that, feeling as he did that his Excellency must be much better informed, and more capable of arriving at a right decision than himself, he had armed him with the most widely-reaching full Powers.

He impressed upon Count Kapnist the responsibility which Europe would assume if it went counter to the unanimous recommendation of the Six Ambassadors, and said that he himself would decidedly decline to encounter it, and was positive that the other Powers ought to do the same.

In speaking to me upon this conversation, Count Goluchowski observed that when Prince Lobanoff instructed the Russian Ambassador to make the suggestion as to not acting on the Firmans, he was not aware of the decision of the Ambassadors, as formulated in their identic telegram of the 25th instant, to insist upon the issue of those instruments before a certain date, and in the event of failure to threaten coercion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 641.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 353. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 29, 1895.*

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI was so good as to read to me the day before yesterday the draft of a despatch which he had sent to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, commenting on the answer of the Russian Government to his original "initiative."

In this despatch Count Goluchowski pointed out briefly the reasons for which he had been desirous of eliciting from the Cabinets of the Great Powers a clear declaration of their determination to act in concert at Constantinople, and proceeded to express his gratification at the reception accorded to his overtures.

With regard to the reserves made by Prince Lobanoff in respect of the third point, he wrote that, while admitting the right of the Russian Cabinet to form a different appreciation of its expediency, he did not exclude the possibility of eventually persuading the Prince to change his views, and that he accepted with pleasure the assurances that the Russian Government take their stand on the provisions of existing Treaties, and that on this ground ("terrain") the Austro-Hungarian Government will always be ready to meet them.

I thought the despatch excellent in its vigour and terseness, and told Count Goluchowski that, in my opinion, nothing could be better than this exposition of his policy.

From some remarks which his Excellency let drop, I gathered that he now somewhat regrets the publicity which he gave at once to his appeal to the Cabinets of the Great Powers, and which enabled the press to do no small amount of mischief by misrepresenting some of his objects. I know that this feeling is shared by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and also by my Italian colleague, Count Nigra, and I did not conceal from your Lordship my own opinion from the outset.

Count Goluchowski now recognizes that throughout the European press there is a tendency to exaggeration of motives as well as of action, which produces the most mischievous effects, and that certain Governments will take advantage of this state of things for their own ends, the result being the loss of advantages which quieter diplomacy would have insured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 642.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 284. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 30, 1895.*

BARON VON MARSCHALL told me yesterday that Rifaat Bey, the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, had called a few hours previously at the Foreign Office with a personal message from his Sovereign to the Emperor, to the following effect:—

The Sultan pointed out that no recent disturbances had occurred in Constantinople. He was ready to give guarantees for the preservation of order and the security of the life and property of all his subjects, Christian and Mahommedan alike, residing in his capital. He feared that the arrival of the second "stationnaires" would inevitably excite ill-feeling amongst the Mahommedans, and might, on the other hand, increase the disaffection of the Armenians; and, under these circumstances, His Majesty appealed to the good offices of his old friend and ally, the German Emperor, to induce the other five Powers to withdraw, or at all events to suspend, their demand for the Firmans authorizing the second "stationnaires" to pass through the Straits.

Baron von Marschall told me that he had categorically refused to comply with this request, and had "once more" impressed on the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires that the best chance the Sultan had of preserving order in his dominions was to yield at once to the unanimous request of the Great Powers with regard to the "stationnaires."

His Excellency informed Rifaat Bey that Baron de Saurma had been instructed to support the demand, and would continue to do so, and that if his Excellency had not applied for a Firman for a second German "stationnaire," the only reason for his not having done so is the fact that the Imperial Government have no available vessel in commission of the calibre required.

"I thought," said Baron von Marschall, "it as well to explain this very clearly, for fear that the absence of a second German 'stationnaire' might be misrepresented at the Porte."

His Excellency further told me, in strict confidence, that the German Government had been recently sounded by the Russian Government as to the advisability of withdrawing the demand, in consequence of an urgent appeal in this sense addressed by the Sultan to the Emperor Nicholas, but that they had declined to do so, and that he was convinced that the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople would now act in entire harmony with his colleagues in support of a measure which was originally proposed by the Russian Ambassador himself.

Baron von Marschall, in reply to my inquiry, said that he had yesterday morning telegraphed to Constantinople to say that His Majesty would be pleased to receive Turkhan Pasha as Ottoman Ambassador at this Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 643.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 764.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 2, 1895.*

THE time seems to have come for acting on the Ambassadors' recommendation reported in my telegram No. 748 of the 25th November, that a delay should be fixed for the granting of the Firmans for the "stationnaires," after which measures would be taken to insure the concession of a right formally recognized in the Treaties.

The French Ambassador has received no instructions from his Government as yet, but the Turkish Ambassador in Paris has been informed that the French Government adhere to the Resolution adopted by the six Powers. Till M. Cambon receives his instructions our hands are tied, and I would therefore suggest that the French Government should be pressed to authorize his Excellency to act on the recommendation above referred to.

No. 644.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 765.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 2, 1895, 8·5 P.M.*

THE Acting British Consul at Angora telegraphs as follows:—

"There were serious disturbances at Cæsarea last Saturday, which lasted for many hours. The official report puts the number of deaths at between fifty and sixty.

"The Mutessarif telegraphed to the Vali that the disturbance was commenced by some Armenians who wounded a Turk, and that the Turks were assisted by foreign Mussulmans, probably Circassians and Kurds."

No. 645.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 92. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 2, 1895.*

DURING a conversation which I had to-day with the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador on the present situation in Turkey I observed to his Excellency that, as the Russian Government declined to agree to any attempt on the part of the other Governments to force the passage of the Dardanelles, the Powers would be compelled, in the event of the Sultan continuing to refuse the Firmans for second "stationnaires," either to accept a complete defeat at his hands, or to inform His Imperial Majesty that, if one of the "stationnaires" attempting to proceed to Constantinople were fired at, this would be considered as a hostile act, which would give rise to reprisals in other parts of his dominions.

I stated, however, to Count Deym that this was not to be considered as a formal proposal, but only as an idea which suggested itself to me on reflecting over the situation, and which I offered for his Excellency's consideration.

No. 646.

The Marquess of Salisbury to the Marquess of Dufferin.

(No. 160.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 2, 1895.*

I HAVE just repeated to you a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, No. 764, of to-day, stating that his French colleague has received no instructions on the subject of the Ambassadors' proposal that a delay should be fixed for compliance with their demand for Firmans for second "stationnaires," after which measures should be taken to secure the concession of a right which is formally recognized by the Treaties.

I request that you will communicate with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and urge that M. Cambon be authorized to act in concert with his colleagues in this matter.

No. 647.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 875.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 29, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Smyrna respecting the situation at Alexandretta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 647.

Consul-General Holmwood to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Smyrna, November 22, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose extract from a letter received by one of our principal mercantile firms here from their English agent at Alexandretta, which gives, I believe, an exaggerated description of the situation there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HOLMWOOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 647.

Mr. Lorimer to Mr. Gordon.

(Extract.) *Alexandretta, November 9, 1895.*

YOU will have heard of the fearful massacre which has taken place in Ourfa. Advices received here show a state of matters which throws the Sasun affair in the shade; it seems the Armenian, which includes the whole Christian quarter, was blocked in on four sides by Hamidieh cavalry in broad daylight, and the butchering commenced, which seems to have been carried out in the usual style, and scarcely a Christian left to tell the tale; the letters received here persist in saying Christians which shows that not only Armenians have been the sufferers this time, but other nationalities also; all this has been confirmed by a second batch of letters.

We ourselves are not feeling very secure; our town is chokeful of Reserve men, all under arms; a battery of eleven mountain guns has been landed, and in the meantime are drawn up in the yard of the Custom-house, where are also a quantity of rifles, and whole piles of ammunitions of war, said to be all on the way to Zeitoun and Marash district, but nearly a week has elapsed since they were landed from a Turkish man-of-war, and no move has been made to send them into the interior; some say that all this collection of men, &c., is to oppose the landing of British troops from Cyprus.

On the night of the 7th instant, what might have been a serious affair, took place here. At about 8 o'clock at night a lot of Fellahs came running into town from the little village of Karagatch, saying that Armenians had raided their village, and were slaying all they could find; a lot of about 200 soldiers were at once dispatched to the scene of the reported outrage, and found the whole story to be entirely false; the excitement in the town was intense all night, and, as the place was full of Redifs, and also a goodly number of Mussulman cattle-drovers, a rising was feared, but happily the night passed without anything of a serious nature taking place. The excitement has in nowise subsided, however, and to-day Armenian hammals are being forced to carry the heavy boxes of ammunition from the Custom-house to a khan in town: those who show the least inclination to resist are being thrashed into obedience.

Since the above has taken place, I, along with Walker and the other British subjects here, having grave fears for our safety, have united in sending a letter to Mr. Barnham, asking that a ship of war should be sent here for our own, and for the protection of the interests of the firm's business and goods here; perhaps you will be as good as to back us by representing to the Consul in Smyrna the state of affairs, and the big stake we risk in still having so much merchandize on our premises here, which, for all we can do to protect it, is very much exposed.

As far as our own safety goes, I do not think there is any very great danger, and as we are always prepared for the worst, nothing would take us by surprise. I also keep a boat ready to escape by sea if need be.

I hope that there is no danger of anything occurring in Smyrna to cause disquietude.

No. 648.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 3.*)

(No. 876.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 29, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting on the situation at Samsoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 648.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Herbert.

Trebizond, November 20, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to annex herewith copy of a despatch from our Consular Agent at Samsoun, alluding therein to the disturbed condition of the inland districts.

Mr. de Cortanze, it will be seen, refers to the talk of those he styles as "les agents provocateurs Arméniens," and I am this day writing to him, therefore, to furnish me with all available information respecting these individuals.

The opinion expressed by him that if the Mutessarif were allowed a free hand disorders at Samsoun would be averted, appears to me very significant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 648.

Consular Agent Cortanze to Consul Longworth.

Samsoun, le 18 Novembre, 1895.

M. le Consul.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance qu'il y a eu des troubles à Amassia, Tokat, Mersifon, et Unieh.

A Amassia il y a eu des victimes la chose est sûre. Les autorités donne le chiffre de dix, les agents provocateurs Arméniens parlent de 200; la vérité est entre ces deux chiffres, mais à quel degré?

Quant aux autres villes ci-dessus mentionnées, je ne puis vous donner pour le moment aucun renseignement précis. Les bruits les plus sinistres circulent. Le fait certain est qu'il y a partout une très violente surexcitation, et, pour ma part, je suis convaincu que s'il n'y a point encore des massacres réguliers, il n'y a pas moins de nombreux crimes isolés et enfantés par la sécurité de l'impunité, et je dirai même de l'approbation officieuse de l'autorité.

Ici pour le moment tout est calme. Les Arméniens ont une grande frayeur, et les Musulmans attendent, non sans impatience, le moment du pillage; la chose se déclare assez ouvertement.

Notre Mutessarif, plein de zèle et d'activité, prend toutes les mesures possibles pour conjurer tout danger, et je suis certain que si on lui laisse toute initiative et liberté d'agir, il n'y aurait rien ici, mais j'ai tout lieu de supposer qu'on l'entrave souvent, et que sa sévérité et son impartialité soient mal vues en haut lieu.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) H. DE CORTANZE.

No. 649.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 3.*)

(No. 878.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 29, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout respecting the attack on the Church Mission Station at Nablus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 649.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. Herbert.

Beyrout, November 18, 1895.

Sir,

ON the 9th instant I received a telegram from Mr. Dickson stating that the British Society's Mission at Nablus had been attacked, and that he was sending me details by post. I have now received a despatch on the subject inclosing a copy of a letter from the Rev. J. R. Longley Hall, Secretary in Palestine of the Church Missionary Society, reporting that on the 8th November a large body of people who were following the Redifs had stoned the Nablus Mission Station. One window of the church was broken and a servant in the employment of the missionaries was wounded in the head. The mob also attacked the Latin and Greek convents, breaking open the doors of the former, but no further damage was done.

I also received a letter from Dr. Gaskin Wright, of the Church Missionary Society at Nablus, who added that the Colonel of the troops was calling on the Chaplain of the Mission at the time the riot occurred, and that it was quickly suppressed by that officer and his comrades.

On the receipt of Mr. Dickson's telegram relating to this matter I communicated with the Governor-General, who informed me he had heard that the Latin Mission had been stoned by boys accompanying the soldiers, but no mention had been made in the reports he had received of an attack on the British Society's Mission.

I have now made further representations, and urged his Excellency to instruct the Governor of Acre to take the necessary precautionary measures, both at Nablus and other places in his district where British missionaries are established, for their safety during the present disturbed state of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 649.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. Herbert.

Beyrout, November 20, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th instant, reporting an attack made upon the Church Missionary Station at Nablus, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a reply received from the Vali of Beyrout to the note I addressed to his Excellency calling his attention to the fact of the assault, and requesting him to issue the necessary orders for the protection of British subjects within this district.

In his reply the Governor-General, while denying the truth of the statement as to the fact of the attack, adds that he has issued imperative instructions that the requisite measures be taken with a view to the preservation of public order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 649.

The Governor-General of Beyrout to Consul-General Drummond Hay.

(Translation.) *Beyrout, November 7, 1895.*

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your note of the 18th instant informing me of an attack made upon the English missionaries in the district of Nablus at the time when the Redifs were being collected, and asking me to see that British missionaries and other subjects should be sufficiently protected throughout all the dependencies of the vilayet.

I have to inform you, in reply, that since you communicated to me your first telegram I have lost no time in making full and strict inquiries about the matter, but I have been unable to find any trace of it, and it seems that your informant has not ascertained the truth of the facts, as perfect tranquillity reigns in the places you mention. Under the high auspices of His Majesty, and owing to the measures taken by the local authorities, nothing has happened, or will happen, to annoy British subjects or others. The vilayet has, moreover, already forwarded, and will continue to forward, strict orders to all places for the preservation of public peace, in conformity with the Imperial will.

(L.S.) (Signed) Vali of Beyrout.

No. 650.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 880.) *Constantinople, November 29, 1895.*

My lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout respecting the disturbances in the Hauran.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 650.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Mr. Herbert.

(Confidential.) *Beyrout, November 20, 1895.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I visited Damascus on the 14th instant, with a view of acquiring, in the absence on leave of Her Majesty's Consul, a more correct idea of the situation.

The city was tranquil, although great anxiety prevailed amongst the Europeans and the native Christians, who were unable to account for such a large massing of troops with the avowed object of subduing a few thousand Druses.

The British residents of Damascus, composed mainly of missionaries established there for many years, informed me that they had never known the interior in such an agitated and lawless condition. They believed that the Damascus Mussulmans are well disposed towards Christians. Several had come forward and offered them shelter in case of a rising.

They had also been warned that the Missions were watched by Government spies.

These measures may be due to the fact that the English are suspected of having invited the Druses, and provided them with arms, a report started, I believe, by Anglophobe journals, which are allowed free circulation in Syria. It has now been published throughout the country, and may have grave consequences should disturbances arise where British subjects are not adequately protected by the authorities.

The arrival lately of two British officers from Egypt gave further occasion for extraordinary rumours, although the sole object of their visit was the purchase of horses.

It is the general opinion of persons thoroughly acquainted with this country that the safety of Europeans and all Christians depends entirely on the line of conduct pursued by the authorities and Military Commanders.

The Syrian Mussulmans are not likely to rise of their own accord; they share with Christians the effects of Turkish misgovernment, and are well aware that their status will not be improved by a repetition of the events of 1860.

The excitement of Mussulmans against Druses is intense, and it was considerably heightened in Damascus by the exhibition of mutilated corpses of women and children brought in from the villages that were destroyed.

I am strongly inclined to disbelieve these accusations against the Druses, as it is a well-known fact that, although merciless with men, they have never been known to injure a woman or child either in revolt or in warfare. The corpses in question were probably those of persons destroyed accidentally by shots, or in conflagrations, and subsequently mutilated by the Mussulmans themselves in order to rouse revengeful feelings.

The Druse residents in Damascus were saved from massacre by being removed under escort to a village about four hours distant; many were, however, wounded by dagger-thrusts from the mob in their passage through the town, and one man was killed.

The Hauran Druses have hitherto been under the Government of their Sheikhs, and have never submitted entirely to Turkish rule.

The principal Sheikhs are the Attraches, sons of a famous Chief named Ismail-el-Attrash.

Several unsuccessful attempts have been made by the Government to bring these wild clans under subjection.

When Midhat Pasha was Governor-General of Syria the Turkish troops had a serious engagement with the Hauran Druses. On that occasion their brethren of the Lebanon interceded, and the Hauranese submitted to the appointment over them of a Druse Kaïmakam.

Said Bey Talhook, now President of the Criminal Court of the Lebanon, was chosen for the post, but he only held it for a short period, and was succeeded by Sheikh Ibrahim-el-Attrash.

Peace then reigned in the Hauran until 1891, when the Druses revolted against their Sheikhs.

Ibrahim-el-Attrash managed to retain his position of Kaïmakam, but since that time the power of the Sheikh has declined.

In 1893 certain influential persons at Constantinople offered to bring the Chiefs of insubordinate tribes in Syria and Arabia under subjection by political means. Special emissaries were sent to Syria, and large sums of money were expended on the Mission.

Several Bedouin Sheikhs proceeded to Constantinople with presents for the Sultan and professions of loyalty.

The Druses were also invited, and eight Chiefs visited the capital in the spring of 1893, bringing with them a gift of twenty-four horses.

The deputation was composed of Ibrahim Bey-el-Attrash, Kaïmakam of Djebel Druse, his nephew Yahia Bey, Mahmoud Nassar, Abou Ali-el-Honawy, and four others.

Honours and decorations were bestowed both on the Bedouins and Druses.

Ibrahim-el-Attrash was raised to the rank of Pasha, and all the members of the deputation received decorations.

The influence thus gained by the Porte was not employed, as it should have been, for the restoration of order and the welfare of the inhabitants of those districts, but the Sheikhs resumed their tyrannical and oppressive administration which has resulted in the actual lawless condition of a considerable portion of the Druses, who have resented the arbitrary and merciless rule of their Sheikhs.

The avaricious propensities of the present Governor-General of Damascus are notorious, and it is not a matter for surprise that brigandage has flourished during his tenure of office. As an example of his mode of procedure, I may cite the case of a British subject who was the victim of a highway robbery committed by Druses last spring.

The Vali, on representations being made to him, took the matter up promptly, and within a short time nearly all the stolen articles were restored, but the brigands remained at liberty, and no attempt was made to punish them.

It was reported at Damascus that the Druses had sued for an amnesty, and that

the Governor-General had delayed the departure of the troops pending a reply to the following ultimatum:—

1. Delivery of 10,000 Martini rifles alleged to be in the possession of the Druses.

2. The payment of 33,000 piastres (about 242*l.*) for each life taken during the raids.

3. Damages for property destroyed.

4. Twenty years' arrears of taxes.

5. Conscription for military service.

That nothing came of the ultimatum was evident from the advance of the troops, and the beacons visible at night on the Hauran heights showed that the people were gathering.

The Druses of Mount Lebanon are quiet. Their Chiefs are in the habit of calling on me occasionally, and I have always counselled them to keep from any interference in the affairs of the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 651.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 396.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 3, 1895.*

I HAVE received Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 842 of the 22nd ultimo, reporting on the alarm among the Armenians at Constantinople at the alleged inspection of their houses by Turkish officials, and the action taken by the French and Russian Ambassadors and himself to secure the adoption by the Porte of measures to allay the panic caused by the rumours of these proceedings.

I approve the representations made by Mr. Herbert with regard to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 652.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 397.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 3, 1895.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 853 of the 25th ultimo, in which you forward a copy of a Report from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush on the critical state of affairs at that place, and furnishing some particulars as to the recent disorders at Bitlis.

I have noticed with satisfaction the firm and judicious conduct of Mr. Hampson, to which your Excellency draws attention, and I request you to convey to him my approval of his proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 653.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 398.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 3, 1895.*

I HAVE received Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 841 of the 22nd ultimo, reporting his conversation on that morning with Ismail Kemal Bey, who had been sent by the Sultan to intimate to him a possible change of policy on the part of His Majesty, and to sound him as to the possibility of inducing the Ambassadors to withdraw their demand for the presence of the second "stationnaires."

Mr. Herbert's language at this interview has my entire approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 654.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 100. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, November 30, 1895.*

COUNT KAPNIST communicated the contents of a telegram to Count Goluchowski, which he had received from Prince Lobanoff, stating that Russia would join in maintaining the demand for Firmans for the second "stationnaires" in view of the insistance of England and Austria, and at the same time he gave his Excellency to understand that M. de Nélidoff is considered at St. Petersburgh to have exaggerated apprehensions and to have shown unnecessary nervousness.

M. de Nélidoff and his colleagues appear to have been warmly defended against this charge by Count Goluchowski, but Count Kapnist declared that on no account would M. de Nélidoff be allowed by his Government to dictate the action to be adopted by them.

The conversation which ensued was in the sense reported by me to your Lordship in my telegram No. 98.

This afternoon Count Goluchowski said to me that the Russian Government do not only allow him to be bitterly abused by their press, but have done all in their power to make difficulties at Constantinople and to nullify his action.

No. 655.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 3, 1895.*

WITH reference to the telegram received from your Lordship No. 92, I have the honour to report that Count Goluchowski had been informed of the nature of your Lordship's observations by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in London.

Count Goluchowski is of opinion that the Sultan cannot remain obstinate now that the reiteration of the demand for Firmans is agreed to by Russia.

It is probable that His Majesty's definite decision will be known within the next forty-eight hours. It will then be time for the Cabinets to consult as to further action if it is a refusal.

(The following is confidential.)

To the above remarks his Excellency added that Russia feared the consequences of leaving a free hand to England, and that she had undoubtedly foreseen that she would do so if she broke up the European concert.

No. 656.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 3, 1895.*

THE report, alleged to be current at Athens, to the effect that the Austro-Hungarian Government have been requested by the Sultan not to send their squadron to Salonica is entirely untrue. They do not intend to send it to that port.

No. 657.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 249.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 4, 1895, 5·30 P.M.*

I REPEATED to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris your telegram No. 764 of the 2nd instant respecting the application of the Ambassadors for Firmans for second "stationnaires," and I instructed his Excellency to speak to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, and urge that M. Cambon should be authorized to act in concert with his colleagues in this matter.

Lord Dufferin has spoken on the subject to M. Ricard, who stated that he must ask for a short delay in order to acquaint himself with the elements of the question.

No. 658.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 766.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 4, 1895, 6·30 P.M.*

THE ex-Grand Vizier, Said Pasha, took refuge in the Embassy this afternoon. He said that the Sultan had for several days past been urging him to come and live in a kiosk in Yildiz in which Midhat was confined. Once there, he would be deprived of all sure means of communicating with his friends outside, and he considered that his life was threatened.

I informed his Highness that he was welcome to the hospitality of the Embassy. I have sent to inform my colleagues of the occurrence.

No. 659.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 767.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 4, 1895, 10·35 P.M.*

THE French Ambassador has received very ambiguous instructions as to fixing a date for the entry of the "stationnaires," but he tells me that he expects, with the assistance of the Russian Ambassador, to settle the question in forty-eight hours. M. de Nélidoff has been instructed by his Government to inform the Porte that though not convinced of the practical utility of the second "stationnaire," they have no intention of deserting the other Powers, and maintain their demand.

No. 660.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 768.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 4, 1895, 11·10 P.M.*

FOLLOWING is a translation of a message which Said Pasha desires me to communicate to your lordship:—

"Despairing of being able to pass a loyal and private life in my own house, I have been forced to ask for a refuge in the British Embassy.

"His Majesty the Sultan had proposed to me to reside in an isolated kiosk in the Park of Yildiz, in order that I might be at hand to assist him in the affairs of Government. I cannot suspect the loyalty of a Sovereign, but I am justified in suspecting His Majesty's *entourage* to be capable of plotting an attack on my life.

"In the name of humanity, I appeal to your Lordship to grant me protection, and enable me and my family to escape into Europe.

"His Majesty may rest assured that in asking for this liberty it is only for my life that I plead, and that I shall not meddle with political affairs."

No. 661.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 769.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 4, 1895, 11·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 766 of the 4th December, on my informing my colleagues that Said Pasha had taken refuge in the Embassy, they all expressed concurrence in the course I had taken.

I have arranged for a meeting of Ambassadors to-morrow.

No. 662.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 770.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 5, 1895, 12·5 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout telegraphs that an encounter has taken place between the Druses of Mejdelshams and Circassians, in which the latter, who were assisted by Government troops, defeated the Druses with considerable loss.

A general gathering of the Druses of the Lebanon was threatened, but a warning issued by the Governor-General that any Druse leaving for the disturbed district would be treated as an outlaw had the effect of promptly suppressing the excitement.

No. 663.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 771.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 5, 1895, 12·15 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush telegraphs that he hears from Bitlis that many Armenians are dying of starvation in that place and in the surrounding villages.

No. 664.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 772.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 5, 1895, 3·15 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush has sent me the following telegram:—

"The Mutessarif begs me to say that his chief difficulty in dealing with the Kurds comes from the fact that he has no command of military forces. He expresses entire disbelief in Shakir Pasha, especially with regard to his recent telegram putting all the blame on the Haidoranli Kurds. The Private Secretary of the Mutessarif, whilst dining with me to-night, begged me semi-officially on behalf of his chief to state that the entire blame for any miscarriage of justice in connection with the recent riots in Mush rests with the Cadi, who also constitutes the chief danger of possible future disturbances. I believe that this remark is fully justified."

No. 665.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 773.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 5, 1895, 3·10 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs that the Commandant of Marash has been removed from the control of the Ferik, and placed under the direct control of the Palace. In consequence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs having informed me that

the Zeitounlis had killed all the Turks still remaining prisoners in their hands, I sent a telegram to Mr. Barnham, asking whether this was true. Mr. Barnham now replies that they have killed seven of their prisoners, and have refused to receive the Commission.

No. 666.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 774.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 5, 1895.*

MY telegram No. 769 of yesterday.

No exception has been taken by the Turks to my action in giving asylum to Said Pasha.

The Foreign Minister and Said Pasha, the ex-Foreign Minister, visited the Ambassadors this morning, and asked them to endeavour to persuade Said Pasha to return home, offering, on the part of the Sultan, to guarantee his safety. It was decided at the Ambassadors' meeting this afternoon that the Austrian Ambassador, as Doyen, should see Said Pasha to-morrow in my presence, should inform him of the communication made to the Ambassadors, and should ask him whether he considered the proposed guarantees satisfactory, and would be willing to return home. No pressure will be used, and if he refuses to accept the proposed guarantees the Ambassadors will endeavour to obtain permission for him to go abroad.

Said Pasha wrote yesterday evening to the Grand Vizier, informing him that he was at the Embassy, and the Foreign Minister and ex-Foreign Minister came late at night to endeavour to persuade him to return home, but without success.

No. 667.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 775.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 5, 1895, 7·55 P.M.*

MY telegram No. 767 of yesterday.

It appeared at to-day's meeting of Ambassadors that my French and Russian colleagues had not yet received any instructions as to the second "stationnaires," and they were therefore unwilling to discuss the question.

No. 668.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 776.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 5, 1895, 8 P.M.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the assurance of the Sultan, the massacres in Asia Minor still continue. At the Ambassadors' meeting to-day I suggested the adoption of some such step as the dispatch of our Military Attachés to hold an investigation. My colleagues did not seem to give much support to my suggestion, and the Russian Ambassador, who is evidently instructed to oppose all joint action, distinctly discouraged it.

No. 669.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 777.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 5, 1895, 8·5 P.M.*

ACCORDING to the reports received at the French Embassy, from 200 to 300 persons were killed during the massacre at Cæsarea.

No. 670.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 251.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 5, 1895, 3·15 P.M.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 766 of the 4th instant, in which you report that Said Pasha, the ex-Grand Vizier, had asked for your protection, stating that his life was in danger, and that you consented to receive him in Her Majesty's Embassy.

Your telegram No. 769 of the same date, reporting that you had informed your colleagues, and that they concurred in the course taken by you, has also been received.

Your Excellency's action in the matter is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 671.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 6, 1895.*

IN regard to the question of the Firmans, Count Goluchowski is still of the firm opinion that the Sultan will accede to the demand of the six Powers as soon as he sees that they are really unanimous. Under these circumstances, his Excellency thinks that before taking any further step a little more time should be allowed to elapse, and that, for the moment, no fresh demand should be made.

The Russian Government, according to his Excellency, ought to be convinced by the fact of the ex-Grand Vizier having taken refuge in Her Majesty's Embassy, that less reliance can be placed in the Sultan than they affect to believe. This incident should also tend to bring about Prince Lobanoff's assent to increase of pressure on His Ottoman Majesty.

No. 672.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 104. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 6, 1895.*

WITH reference to the subject of the "stationnaires," mentioned in my telegram No. 103, I gather that Count Goluchowski is not inclined to take into his consideration the question of adopting strong measures, and I am led to think that, if the other Powers took the same view, he would agree to not making use of the Firmans when granted.

Any precipitate action may, he thinks, sacrifice unanimity; and he seems disposed to deprecate taking any action against the Sultan which may in any way resemble coercion, although at the same time he agrees that the six Powers could not submit quietly to a rebuff at the hands of His Imperial Majesty.

His Excellency, however, declares himself convinced that the Sultan would be afraid of firing on the "stationnaires" if the Ambassadors, acting on their Treaty rights, should summon them to Constantinople.

No. 673.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 778.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 6, 1895, 11·30 A.M.*

MY telegram No. 751 of the 26th November.

Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van sent me the following telegram, dated the 3rd December:—

"Shakir Pasha's remarks about the Kurds have no special point just now, as they apply to a state of things existing for years past. It is, of course, possible that some Persian Kurds have crossed the frontier, but it is the Turkish Kurds who have done practically all the mischief. Things are rather quieter about here now."

No. 674.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 779.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 6, 1895, 9·40 P.M.*

THE French and Russian Governments have now instructed their Ambassadors to join in fixing a delay for the issue of the Firmans for the "stationnaires," after which measures will be taken to secure our rights.

M. de Nélidoff is, however, first to demand an audience of the Sultan and to deliver a friendly message from the Emperor, advising the Sultan not to hold out any longer.

No. 675.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 780.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 6, 1895, 11·30 P.M.*

MY telegram No. 774 of yesterday.

As previously arranged, the Austrian Ambassador had an interview with Said Pasha to-day. Said Pasha, after detailing the events which had led him to seek an asylum in the Embassy, informed Baron Calice that his one wish was to be allowed to go abroad; that he was ready to promise not to do anything against the Sultan, and to leave to His Majesty the choice of his residence. If, however, it could not be arranged that he should depart accompanied by his family, he was ready for the sake of his children to sacrifice his own happiness, provided the Sultan gave satisfactory guarantees for his safety, and to leave his fate in the hands of Providence.

At a meeting of the Ambassadors this afternoon, it was agreed that Baron Calice should inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he had communicated to Said Pasha the message which he had delivered on behalf of the Sultan, but that his Highness had only expressed the wish to be allowed, on the terms given above, to leave the country.

On my return to the Embassy, I found several messengers from the Palace waiting to see Said Pasha. Among others were Raghib Bey, one of the Sultan's Chamberlains, and a religious Sheikh, who had brought a Koran with him, on which he swore, in the name of the Caliph, that His Majesty was very well disposed towards him and would leave him in peace in his own house.

All the constant pressure from the Palace seemed to have broken down Said Pasha's powers of resistance, and he dictated to Raghib Bey the conditions on which he would leave the Embassy and return home. These terms were to be embodied in an Iradé, which was to be communicated to me. They are as follows:—

"Said Pasha with his family will enjoy personal liberty and security; he will reside in his own house; he will not be appointed without his own consent to any post, either in the capital or provinces.

"The above is to be communicated to Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy, by order of the Sultan."

I have asked the ex-Grand Vizier, before leaving the Embassy, to write me a letter stating that he does so by his own wish, having received assurances from the Sultan which he considers satisfactory. I have not attempted in any way to influence his decisions, but have placed my hospitality and good offices unreservedly at his disposal.

Mr. Block or Mr. Eliot have been present at all the interviews between Said Pasha and the Sultan's emissaries.

No. 676.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 96.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 6, 1895.*

THE following is very confidential.

From the intelligence that reaches Her Majesty's Government as to the attitude of the other Powers in the question of the second "stationnaires" at Constantinople, it appears that the Russian Ambassador has instructions not to take any joint action, that the French officiating Minister for Foreign Affairs refuses to send the French Ambassador any instructions tending to action, and that the German Ambassador is instructed as far as possible to avoid moving in the matter.

I should be glad if your Excellency could ascertain what is the view taken of the present position of the question by the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 677.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 356.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 4, 1895.*

IN a conversation which I had yesterday with Count Goluchowski, his Excellency said that now that Russia had again placed herself completely in line with the other Powers in regard to reiterating the demand for the Firmans for second "stationnaires," it was impossible for the Sultan to continue his refusal to accede to it.

His Ottoman Majesty's obstinacy on this point seemed due, said his Excellency, not only to the promptings of Izzet Bey, the Prefect of Police, but to his own superstitious dread of the possible consequences to his own person, founded on the fact that a similar concession on the part of Abdul Aziz was very quickly followed by that Sultan's tragic end.

Count Goluchowski, however, feels so persuaded that the Sultan must now give way, that he declares that it would be absolutely premature to discuss what is to be done in the opposite event.

Referring to the action of the French Government, his Excellency said that he had reason to believe that their views in regard to the repetition of the demand for Firmans had all along been in accord with those of the majority of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 678.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 7, 1895.*

MY telegrams Nos. 103 and 104 of yesterday's date answer fully, I think, the inquiries contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 96 in regard to the views of Count Goluchowski.

I fear I may be prevented from seeing his Excellency until to-morrow owing to to-day's ceremony of the investiture of Cardinals, but I gather from the language he held yesterday that, unless in accord with all the Powers, he will not commit himself to take any action.

Even in the official world here, as I learn from various sources, there are many who think that he has been over precipitate in the whole matter.

No. 679.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 7, 1895.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 105 in regard to the question of "stationnaires," I am informed that at midnight Baron Calice telegraphed to Count Goluchowski that M. de Nélidoff had been instructed to tell the Sultan from the Emperor Nicholas himself that His Imperial Majesty begged him to give way to the united demands of the Powers; also, that the Russian Ambassador has authority to act in accord with the other Ambassadors in the question of further steps to be taken in case His Ottoman Majesty refuses to yield.

M. Cambon has been empowered to act in a similar manner.

No. 680.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 107. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 7, 1895.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding telegram, I learn that Count Goluchowski, after my conversation with him yesterday, telegraphed an urgent message to Prince Lobanoff, impressing upon him that Russia, having herself initiated the proposal about the second "stationnaires," cannot now honourably retreat from the position she has assumed.

He used similar language to the Russian Ambassador, whom he likewise saw yesterday, and he clearly wishes it to be understood that he has turned the scale by taking this action.

No. 681.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 781. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 8, 1895, 10 P.M.*

"STATIONNAIRES." The Austrian Ambassador declares that Count Goluchowski is firm, and that anything he may have said which would give a different impression could only have been intended to apply to the question of separate action by England, Austria, and Italy. The Russian Ambassador had an audience of the Sultan to-day, at which he delivered the message from the Emperor, mentioned in my telegram No. 779 of the 6th.

The Sultan promised a reply by to-morrow evening, but it is hardly likely to be favourable.

No. 682.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 782.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 8, 1895, 9·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 780 of the 6th December:

The Sultan's messengers still continue to negotiate with Saïd Pasha. He is replying to a letter he received containing various charges against him; they are not of a serious kind. He received this instead of the letter he asked for.

No. 683.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 783. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 8, 1895, 11 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 782 of the 8th November:

Saïd Pasha would feel more secure if a note were addressed to the Porte by the Embassy taking act of the assurances for his future safety, which he expects to receive from the Sultan to-morrow, and which he considers fairly satisfactory.

There can be no doubt that Saïd Pasha will be in considerable danger, and that his best chance of safety is in our establishing some claim to interfere on his behalf.

I earnestly trust, therefore, that your Lordship will sanction the following communication, which I propose to make to the Foreign Minister:—

"Saïd Pasha having decided, in reliance on the assurances which he has received from His Majesty the Sultan, to leave the British Embassy, I am instructed by my Government to express to your Excellency their confidence that Saïd Pasha will in future enjoy full liberty and security."

No. 684.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 881 A. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 29, 1895.*

I HAD the honour of being received this afternoon by the Sultan in a private audience, which lasted two and a half hours.

His Imperial Majesty began by inquiring after the health of the Queen. I replied that Her Majesty was well, and had charged me to present her compliments to the Sultan, and to thank him for the messages he had sent. Her Majesty had heard with great grief of the events which had occurred in Turkey during the last few weeks, and trusted that the Sultan would do all in his power to prevent their continuance.

His Imperial Majesty replied that I was doubtless already aware that order had been restored, as the Porte had been instructed to communicate to the Embassies all news received from the provinces, as well as copies of the orders sent to the local authorities for the maintenance of order. Troops had also been dispatched to prevent a recurrence of disorder, and, in fact, everything that could be done had been done. I must have heard from our Consular officers, said His Imperial Majesty, in conclusion, that since some days quiet prevailed.

I said the reports I had received confirmed His Majesty's statements, but that in some places disturbances still continued, though on a relatively small scale.

His Majesty went on to say that there still existed a regrettable impression that he was not sincere in his desire to execute the reforms without delay. Such a scheme had naturally required prolonged discussion, but, once approved and adopted, he was resolved it should be carried out in its entirety. The first thing, however, needful was to restore order, for only then could the reforms be taken in hand. Nevertheless, a beginning had already been made: certain Inspectors had been chosen, as well as Muavins for the Valis and Mutessarifs. Shakir Pasha had begun to enrol a Christian gendarmerie, and but for the disturbances would have introduced it by now in all the six vilayets.

I said that Her Majesty's Government had heard with satisfaction of the Sultan's fixed resolve to execute reforms, but, unfortunately, late events could not but shake their confidence. The acceptance of the reforms had been followed by massacres throughout the Armenian provinces, and thousands of people who had lost their homes and property must starve during the winter unless relief was forthcoming. Just before leaving the Embassy I had received news which was far from reassuring, namely, that several Armenians had been forced to accept Mahommedanism to escape death.

His Majesty remarked that he had no sympathy with any one who changed his religion, and he cited the case of a well-known Armenian, a high functionary in the Ministry of Justice, who had turned Mahommedan. He had no consideration whatever for this man. He asked me to give him details respecting the forced conversions I had mentioned, and I promised to do so.

I then informed His Majesty that I had that day received a telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, saying that Armenians had been threatened and tortured at Bitlis in order to force them to telegraph to Constantinople that the massacres at that place had been begun by Armenians. The Sultan at first expressed incredulity, and asked who forced the Armenians to make such statements. I replied it was the authorities, who wished to disown all responsibility for what had occurred. The Sultan said he would make inquiries, but asked what evidence would convince me. I said His Majesty had no doubt officials whom he could trust, on which he suggested Abdullah Pasha, or Saad-ed-Din Pasha, President of the Commission, lately dispatched as suitable persons, but I declined to interfere in the choice of the functionaries to be sent, and confined myself to suggesting that one of Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls should take part in the inquiry. The Sultan agreed to this.

I then said that there were two circumstances which Her Majesty's Government had learned with much regret; one was, that no one had as yet been punished for the massacres; the other, that His Majesty had not yet issued the promised Hatt.

The Sultan, replying only to the latter of these observations, said that deeds were more important than words or Proclamations; he would communicate to me through the Porte his reasons for not publishing a Hatt. He had repeatedly stated that he would execute the reforms; he was an obstinate man, he said, and having once taken a determination he intended to carry it through. I continued, however, to press the point, and said that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the promulgation of the Hatt was necessary for three reasons: (1) to convince the Powers of His Majesty's sincerity; (2) to convince the Armenians they were really to have reforms; (3) to convince the Moslems that the reforms contained nothing injurious to their interests. The Sultan replied that he would instruct his Ministers to give the explanations respecting the second and third points, which he hoped would convince me that his refusal to publish a Hatt was justified. With regard to the first point, the reforms had been officially communicated to all the Ambassadors, and it depended on them to inform their respective Governments of the determination he had expressed to execute them, and of the practical measures he was taking for this purpose. He then reverted to my second and third points, and observed that, in spite of what he had said, he would like to discuss them with me as a friend.

He then entered into a long historical disquisition with the object of showing that the issue of a new Hatt would be futile. He referred to the Hatt of Gulhane, and the Hatt-i-Shereef of his father; the latter had been a bone of contention between the French partisans, Ali and Fuad Pashas, on the one hand, and Reschid Pasha, an English partisan, on the other, and, when finally promulgated, had led to much hostile feeling on the part of the Sheikh-el-Islam and other Moslem leaders. Yet, after all, the practical result had been small. When he came to the Throne, he had put into force some clauses of his father's Hatt; he had instituted a Parliament in which were a certain number of ignorant and childish people, and which had to be superseded. He had reformed the administration of justice and inaugurated a new Code. The present reforms were only an elaboration of the former Hatt-i-Shereef, and, in his opinion, there was no need to publish them *in extenso*. He had caused a notice to be put in the press that certain reforms would be taken in hand, and that was sufficient; a further publication would not carry conviction to any one. His object was to adopt the reforms in practice, and then people would learn what their nature was.

In reply, I still pressed the matter, and said that in every civilized country laws that were to be enforced were first published. It was, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, essential that the details of the reforms should be made generally known, that they should be published in every vilayet, and posted up in every Armenian village and house.

The Sultan replied he would explain the situation still further. He had intended to publish the reforms. They had been copied *in extenso* for the press, with references showing to which Article of the Law on the vilayets each clause referred. I had doubtless read a translation of the existing Laws, and therefore was aware that the scheme of reforms contained nothing new.

I replied I was well aware of this, and reminded His Majesty that some months ago, when he had asked me what the reforms we intended to propose were, I had told him they contained nothing which was not already in the Code. It was accordingly highly desirable that the public, both Moslem and Christian, should know this. The Sultan replied that, notwithstanding this, he had not ventured to make any publication. He would, however, again consult his Ministers and Said Pasha about the Hatt, and would let me know the result. He hoped I would be reasonable, and believe in the sincerity of the arguments adduced should the promulgation of a Hatt be again recognized as unadvisable. If I would examine these questions with an open mind, it would be greatly to the advantage of both Turkey and England.

I then touched upon the question of the "stationnaires," and expressed deep regret that His Imperial Majesty showed such unfounded suspicion of the intention of the Powers in demanding Firmans for additional vessels.

Under the Treaty of Paris they had a distinct right to two "stationnaires;" they had exercised this right on many occasions, and their sole object in claiming to exercise it now was to afford adequate protection to the foreign Colonies in case of need. Notwithstanding the assurances given by the Imperial Government that perfect security existed, the confidence which had been destroyed by recent events here and in the provinces could not be restored, and constant panics prevailed.

The Sultan replied that, as everything had been done to restore order, and as tranquillity now reigned, there was no necessity to press this point any more. Disturbances had, it was true, broken out at Constantinople, and been followed by others in the provinces, but there was now no further danger. His wish was to take advantage of the present calm to execute the reforms, and the step now taken by the Powers only rendered his task more difficult, and might provoke disorders.

"There is no danger," he said. "Has even one foreigner's nose bled either in the capital or in the provinces?"

I said I could not admit there was no danger. The step taken by the Powers was in the interests of Turkey as well as of the foreign subjects, for if an outbreak occurred here it might lead to the entrance of the fleets.

The Sultan answered that every measure had been taken to insure order, that the greatest vigilance was exercised wherever Europeans dwelt, and that, though ordinary crimes might be committed, as in London, Paris, and every city of the world, a revolt was improbable.

He did not agree with the reasoning of the Ambassadors; they argued that the presence of the "stationnaires" would prevent an outbreak, but the Minister of Police and other authorities reported to him that it would probably provoke one. He hoped, therefore, that England would not insist on this step.

I replied that all the Powers were absolutely agreed on its necessity, but the Sultan insisted that if England would abandon the idea, she was quite able to induce the others to follow her. He trusted I would telegraph to your Lordship his views on the subject, and that Her Majesty's Government would persuade the others to withdraw their demand.

I replied that His Majesty misjudged the situation; England did not stand alone in this matter, and the Powers were acting in strict concert; there was no intention of injuring His Majesty or the interests of the Empire.

The suspicions which seemed to fill His Majesty's mind must have been inspired by his enemies, with the object of bringing about a naval intervention. Although an attack on foreigners might not be probable, it was not impossible, and there could be no doubt that if such an event occurred the fleets would at once come to Constantinople to protect the lives of foreign subjects. The only guarantee against such an eventuality was the presence of the armed "stationnaires" which the Powers demanded. They did not require the vessels for the purpose of making a naval demonstration; their sole object was to restore confidence and assist His Majesty in maintaining order. I therefore, as a friend of His Majesty and of Turkey, earnestly begged him to let the ships pass the Dardanelles. They would come through one by one, and attract no attention; but I warned him that if the permission was refused the Powers were united, and resolved to carry the matter through. His Majesty said he would again consult his Ministers and Said Pasha, who had already

been sent round to the Embassies with a message on the subject. But in the meantime he begged me to support his request, that Her Majesty's Government should abandon the proposal.

I said I would report His Majesty's language, but that considering the instructions I had received, I could hold out no hope that Her Majesty's Government would alter their decision.

His Majesty sent Munir Pasha to me after the audience to again press the point.

I then spoke of the attack on our Consuls at Jeddah, and said I wished to remind His Imperial Majesty that, though some months had elapsed since the outrage had occurred, no reparation whatever had been made by the Ottoman Government. The Sultan said that this was a matter to be treated by the Sublime Porte, but that, as far as he was aware, it had been decided with the assent of the Embassies that the best means of laying hands on the perpetrators of the outrage was by giving hostages. I said that no answer had yet been returned to the notes on the subject addressed by the Powers to the Sublime Porte, and that I wished to impress on His Majesty the gravity of the matter. Whether soldiers should be sent or the criminals be captured by negotiation was a question of detail for His Majesty to decide, but reparation was necessary, and must be obtained in some way or another. His Majesty replied that he was endeavouring to induce the culprits to surrender, but they had taken refuge in inaccessible mountains. If I thought it necessary he would send troops after them. But the Grand Shereef and the Vali were trying to capture them by other means, and this, he understood, was the cause of the delay. If he sent troops the men would probably not be taken alive; and, if they were shot, how would it be possible to convince the Ambassadors they were the real culprits? He would, however, inquire of the Porte how the matter stood, and inform me of the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 685.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 885. Confidential.) *Constantinople, December 2, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a communication which I have received from an English resident of long standing respecting the summary measures alleged to be adopted by the Turkish Government towards those who are obnoxious to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 685.

Letter addressed to Sir P. Currie.

Constantinople, November 29, 1895.

Dear Sir Philip,

YOU doubtless know that many unfortunates have of late been consigned to eternity by drowning. This drowning was chiefly done in the Marmora, but as it oozed out, it was considered safer to do the jobs in the Black Sea.

On Wednesday week last a launch was seen off Beyterbey and fearful shrieks were heard by many people on shore, one being a Turkish friend of mine, whom I trust thoroughly. It appears that some twenty prisoners on board had broken out of the cabin and getting on deck had begun screaming for mercy. Their guards tried in vain to keep them down and the whistle was sounded to stifle the noise. The launch steamed on to the Black Sea.

I hear also of another case on which an unwilling captain was roused at night to conduct a launch to the Black Sea (the real captain sick of such scenes having refused to go on the plea of illness). On getting into the Black Sea, he was ordered to go into the cabin (previously occupied by a high functionary) and he was locked in. He all the same heard fearful screams and sixteen splashes in the water.

Your Excellency may depend on this information being true, but if my informants

were called up to prove it (and in the latter case the captain himself was the original informant) in their terror they would, I am sure, deny having given the information.

The pressure on the population in the disturbed districts is tremendous. A clerk of ours, with a small salary, living at Adana, writes us that he was forced to pay 35 medjidiehs contribution towards the expenses of the Redifs, and everybody else was being similarly squeezed.

Truly this unfortunate country is passing through awful times.

No. 686.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 887.) *Constantinople, December 2, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the following Judicial Inspectors have been appointed for the provinces in Asia Minor:—

Zuhdi Effendi, President of the Court of Appeal at Monastir, and Selim Hind Effendi, Deputy Procureur-Général of the Court of Cassation, for the Vilayets of Van and Bitlis; Taib Effendi, President of the Court of Appeal at Adrianople, and Yorghaki Effendi, Deputy Procureur of the Court of Cassation, for the Vilayets of Erzeroum and Diarbekir;

Rachid Effendi, President of the Court of Appeal at Sivas, and Divan Effendi, Procureur of the Court of Appeal of Aidin, for the Vilayets of Sivas and Mamouret-ul-Aziz.

I hear that Selim Hindi Effendi is an honest man, but with no great intelligence. He is from long experience well acquainted with criminal law.

Taib Effendi is an Albanian, and he is said to be the protégé of an Albanian Sheikh at the Palace. He is an extremely fanatical man, obstinate and pretentious, but honest and capable.

Yorghaki Effendi is a very capable and intelligent man, and is the author of several works on jurisprudence.

Rachid Effendi is said to be corrupt, and an intriguer and of no great capacity.

Divan Effendi has a bad reputation. He is said to be dishonest, and to accept bribes down to 5*l*.

Of the members of the Commission appointed for the European provinces, as reported in my despatch to your Lordship No. 857 of the 26th November, Hakki Bey is in every respect the most able and upright man that could be found for the post; and Khalid Bey, who is a creature of the Palace, is not wanting in legal knowledge acquired from long experience in the magistracy; his uprightness and impartiality can only be relied upon so long as no outside influence is brought to bear upon him. He was the Public Prosecutor in the trials of Midhat Pasha and Moussa Bey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

P.S.—I have just received information from Monastir that Zuhdi Effendi is reputed honest and incorruptible, but a bigoted Mussulman.

P. C.

No. 687.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 889.) *Constantinople, December 3, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Konieh, reporting on the state of affairs in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 687.

Vice-Consul Keun to Sir P. Currie.

Koniah, November 29, 1895.

Excellency,

THE departure of our post having been delayed, I beg to confirm my despatches Nos. 2 and 3.

The calling out of the Redifs has begun to bear its fruit; the relatives of the departed soldiers are exasperated so that the excitement against the Armenians has increased.

The students of religions of whom many hundreds flock in every winter in the Médressés (religious colleges) that abound in this town, have begun to sing hostile songs against the Armenians, and insult all that pass by the said Médressés.

The Russian Consul leaves to-morrow for Sparta, Bourdour, Adalia, and Constantinople. On taking leave of me he asked me to assist in case of need his Drogman, who will, during his absence, be Acting Consul, for the Turks have begun to molest the Armenians, adding also that stones were thrown into the windows of his Drogman's house (who is an Armenian by birth), and insulting words were addressed to his wife, the culprits being the students of a Médressé opposite the Drogman's residence. The Consul complained verbally to the Vali, who sent a public Commissary to investigate the case.

Personally, I do not believe anything serious will happen, but, certainly, if anything happens, our Vali is too weak an old man to check the evil.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. D. KEUN.

No. 688.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 9.*)

(No. 866.)

Constantinople, December 3, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of two despatches which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora respecting the general situation in that vilayet and the disposal of the troops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 688.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Angora, November 25, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Excellency's information, the following report upon the general state of affairs in the Angora Vilayet.

Position of Troops.—The Acting Vali, General Ali Riza Pasha, although deficient in administrative ability, appears, considering the gravity of the present situation, to have handled the troops at his command with considerable forethought and skill. His main objects, he informs me, for the time being are to prevent an incursion of Kurds from the Sivas Vilayet, and, at the same time, to concentrate his forces in such of the more important towns as are more particularly subject to internal disorder. With these ends in view he has stationed four battalions of Reserves at Chorourn, one battalion midway between that town and Yuzgat, one battalion in Yuzgat itself, and another between there and Cæsarea. In Cæsarea he has collected eight battalions, certain of which are prepared, if needful, to cross into the Sivas Vilayet and march against the Kurds.

A line of troops has thus been drawn extending from north to south of this province, and in the immediate vicinity of the neighbouring vilayet.

A report reached me the other day that a band of 500 Kurdish horsemen had threatened a descent upon Cæsarea. The Ferik Pasha confirms this rumour, and states that upon receiving a telegram to that effect he at once gave orders for a

battalion to proceed from Cæsarea to the frontier in order to intercept the passage of these Kurds, and that at the same time a well-known Khoja was dispatched by the Cæsarea authorities to remonstrate with them, and persuade them to disperse quietly. I was assured by several persons who professed to be well informed that the four battalions of Redifs alluded to in my despatch of the 18th instant had refused, after rallying to the colours and receiving their arms, to proceed to Sivas, and that they had dispersed to their homes declaring that they could not leave their wives and children to be slaughtered by the Armenians, and that they intended to keep their weapons for the protection of their families.

This rumour, however, the Ferik Pasha declares to be unfounded, and tells me that, as a matter of fact, only two of the battalions in question have as yet been mustered, and that these are at Cæsarea ready to start upon the shortest notice for Sivas.

Officers and Civil Officials of Rank.—Among the higher military officers and civil functionaries in this vilayet Djafer Pasha, Mutessarif of Yuzgat, bears an excellent reputation for justice, humanity, and impartiality. The Mutessarif of Cæsarea, Ahmed Shevki Bey, is also considered a satisfactory official. Ahmed Arifi Bey, however, the Mutessarif of Kirshehr, is disliked and feared by the Christians as prejudiced and fanatical. The Ferik Pasha, Commander of the forces at Yuzgat, and the Liva Pasha of Cæsarea, are held in high repute by Mussulmans and Armenians alike as being zealous and high-minded officers.

The Liva Pasha of Angora (Mehmet Pasha), and the Mir-Alai, Head of the Gendarmerie, are both honest, hard-working officers, who spare neither themselves nor their men, and the untiring zeal displayed by them during the past month in keeping a constant personal supervision over the Angora populace is most praiseworthy.

Circassians and Kurds.—Among the various conflicting elements which compose the mixed population of the vilayet, the Circassians are looked upon as the most disquieting. They amount to at least 6,000 Mussulmans, are armed, and are mostly poor and thievish; their chief settlements are in the Cazas of Ak-Tagh Maden, Boghazlian, Kirshehr and Yuzgat.

The Kurds also, at the present juncture, are a natural cause of anxiety for the Christian population. They are far more numerous than the Circassians—in Haymana alone, some 50 miles from this town, they amount to 5,000 men; their principal centres are Caragedik and Haymana in this sandjak, Mejidié and Keskino in the Sandjak of Kirshehr, and the district of Devellu, in the Cæsarea Sandjak.

These Kurds are, on the whole, a quiet and industrious class of people. Among the various tribes, however, the Chibizanli, the Terkianli, and the Chelikianli have a bad reputation for robbery and violence, and it is feared that the attitude of the Kurds in Armenia may instigate them to unite with the Circassians, and to attack and pillage such Armenian villages in their proximity as may be prosperous and unprotected.

Under these circumstances it would appear expedient that a certain number of Reserves—two or three battalions in all, under picked officers would, I believe, suffice—should be assigned to the various districts referred to, with orders to keep a strict watch over the Circassians, as well as over such Kurdish tribes as may require to be kept in hand. In the interests of the town of Angora, the Kurds at Haymana and Caragedik most undoubtedly need military supervision.

The situation at Angora.—The general situation in this town is anything but reassuring; business is at a standstill, and the danger which threatens the population lies chiefly in three facts:—

1. The fact of the entire Mussulman population being armed.
2. The insufficiency of troops and of police.
3. The extreme fear and mutual distrust prevailing among the various Christian communities.

I called recently upon the Acting Vali and urged him to at once apply to Constantinople for, at the very least, 400 additional troops to be stationed for a time in this town. I pointed out that the 150 soldiers and fifty gendarmes now at his disposal, however energetic and trustworthy—they pass, it seems, eight hours on duty, with four hours only for rest—would be quite inadequate to quell any serious disturbance in a city of 30,000 inhabitants; and I called his attention to the fact of there being no "corncils" or guard-houses either at At-Bazar or at Koyun-Bazar, two very populous Mussulman quarters where the principal coffee-houses are situated.

I then reminded the Ferik Pasha that Moudouk Pasha had put a stop to the open sale of fire-arms and ammunition; but added that the large majority of the Turks

were now openly carrying large knives in their belts, whereas any Christian discovered with arms in his possession was at once arrested and fined; and I very earnestly represented to him the necessity for disarming, at the very least, a certain number of the lower-class Turks if only as a means of reassuring the terrified Armenians.

Ali Riza Pasha replied that he would wire to Constantinople for additional troops or for permission to arm a part of the reserves from this caza. He declared that it would be impossible to disarm all the Mussulmans, but promised to signal out a few of the more suspicious characters and confiscate their weapons.

In conclusion I would submit, for your Excellency's consideration, the urgent need existing at the present moment for a reinforcement, either of troops or gendarmes, for Angora. The Mir-Alai tells me that he could easily enrol 100 men into the police force from the natives of Angora, should he receive permission to do so; and that he would prefer them to troops. In any case there would be no great difficulty in collecting a force of 400 men, partly from the reserves and partly from the population to serve as police, within the Caza of Angora itself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 688.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, November 28, 1895.

Sir,

IN continuation of my Confidential despatch to your Excellency of the 25th instant, in which I had the honour to report, among other things, that the Acting Vali had been urged by me to apply to Constantinople for a reinforcement of troops for Angora, and to increase the number of guard-stations in the town, I now have the honour to report that, in reply to a telegram sent by him to the Porte, Ali Riza Pasha has received orders to raise a force of 400 men from the reserves in this caza for the protection of the Angora population.

A certain number of troops have already been mustered, principally, I am told, from the villages of Chibouk and Haymana, in the neighbourhood of this town.

Portions of houses have also been hired by the Acting Vali at Bazar, Koyun-Bazar, Baluk-Bazar, in the vicinity of Imaret-Jamisi and near one of the town gates to serve as "caracols;" and four of these five stations are already occupied by troops.

I have duly thanked Ali Riza Pasha for the energetic way in which he has acted in this matter; I propose, however, subject to the approval of your Excellency, to suggest to him that a small force of reserves, under the command of a couple of trustworthy petty officers, should be stationed at Haymana, the chief Kurdish settlement in this sandjak, with the object of checking any disquieting movement in that locality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 689.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 891.) *Constantinople, December* 3, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora reporting on the deplorable condition of the Armenians in the south-west portion of the Sivas Vilayet.

I am making representations at the Sublime Porte, and urging that instructions should be sent to the Vali of Sivas to ameliorate the state of affairs in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 689.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Angora, November* 20, 1895.

ACCORDING to a letter I have received, dated the 10th instant, from a trustworthy correspondent at Cæsarea, the Armenians in the south-westerly portion of the Sivas Vilayet, especially at Ghemerek and the surrounding villages, are undergoing great suffering and loss. Seven villages in particular, of which Boorhan, Lisanlu, Chepné, and Ala-Kilissé are the more important, have been pillaged by mixed bands of Circassians, Kurds, and Turcomans—"everything having been taken, even to the matting and the wooden spoons."

In Boorhan one man was killed, but on the whole there appears to have been, comparatively, but little loss of life. Dendil (?), another village in the same neighbourhood, was, up to the 17th instant, surrounded by Kurds and Circassians, who threatened a raid. The Armenians sent to the Kaimakam of Shackishle for assistance. His only reply was, "Defend yourselves; I have no soldiers to lend you;" thereupon they provisioned their church, and placed their women and children there for safety. My informant is unaware of what happened in this village subsequent to the date referred to.

I hear from another source that the villagers have been flocking into Ghemerek for safety; but that even there the Kurds managed to seize and carry off some 9,000 sheep which had been driven in from the surrounding hamlets.

I have called the attention of the Acting Vali to the deplorable condition of a district in the immediate vicinity of his own vilayet. He professes, however, to have no cognizance of the matter, and states that, in any case, he could not interfere with the affairs of any other vilayet than his own without special instructions to that effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 690.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 892.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 3, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Dr. Jewett to Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond giving details of the recent massacre of Armenians at Sivas.

According to later information, the Capuchin monks mentioned by Mr. Jewett were not killed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 690.

The Rev. W. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Dear Consul Longworth, *Sivas, November* 13, 1895.

GREAT massacre of Armenians occurred here yesterday. It began in the market at about 11 A.M. Number killed unknown. A policeman says 3,000, but accurate figures are not yet obtainable.

The Mahommedans are very savage. Great amount of looting has been done all over the city, and was unrestrained by the soldiers. Massacre was made by local Mahommedans.

So long as such things remain unpunished we may expect it to go on.

Have telegraphed to American Minister, but did not like to try the wire for you.

Same thing has been going on in villages and towns all about. Gurun was seriously menaced by Kurds and local Turks. May have been ruined by this time. All places are in danger.

The slaughter at Malatia was very great. It is reported by Armenian and Circassian "arabagies"* that scarcely a male adult Christian escaped. Women were carried off by the Kurds. Four Capuchin monks reported killed.

The Vali debates on the responsibility of the Armenians for carrying arms, and in the meantime they are slaughtered.

Everywhere the Kurds and Turks say they have orders from high quarters. A Kaimakam so reported to the Vali.

Order partially restored here.

Foreigners well guarded.

Hastily yours, &c.
(Signed) W. J. JEWETT.

P.S.—A Turk day before yesterday warned an Armenian acquaintance of mine not to go to the market yesterday, and promised to go to his house and guard it.
W. J. J.

No. 691.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 9.)

(No. 893.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 3, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a communication which I have received from some members of the Armenian community at Smyrna expressing their gratitude for British assistance in the introduction of reforms into Armenia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 691.

Letter addressed to Sir P. Currie by Members of the Armenian Community at Smyrna.

Smyrna, November 5, 1895.

Your Excellency,

WILL you kindly permit us to express to your Excellency our unbounded and most sincere gratitude for the great and invaluable services which you have rendered to our national cause.

We are aware of the great difficulties which you had to encounter, and we were watching most anxiously day by day, and, so to say, hour by hour, all the efforts which you have been making with so much courage, energy, and perseverance to bring about such a settlement as to secure protection of life, property, and honour to our people in Armenia, whose condition has been for centuries in many respects worse than that of slaves.

We never cease to thank God that by His great providence you have been, under the most trying circumstances, called to represent Her Majesty's Government in the Turkish capital, for we feel certain, were it not for your watchful persistent efforts, and your strong sympathy with our oppressed people, our cause could not possibly have reached the present issue; we therefore never cease to thank you, and to feel deeply and truly grateful to you, because no British Ambassador in the past ever worked for us as your Excellency did in this crisis, and we assure you that this feeling is shared by the whole Armenian nation.

We also feel deeply and truly grateful to Her Majesty's Government and to the leaders of the Liberal party, for it was under the Ministry of Lord Rosebery that the scheme of reforms for Armenia was planned, and it is due to the untiring energy of Lord Salisbury the final acceptance of it by the Sultan, and it is certain that were our people not withheld, there would have been a general burst of enthusiasm and demonstration of gratitude from all sides towards the British nation.

Sir, we do not know what there is in store for us in the future, but we beg leave to say, as your Excellency right well knows, that no reform of a true and lasting

* Carters.

nature will ever be introduced in Armenia by His Majesty the Sultan but under the pressure and guidance of the Great Powers, and of Great Britain in particular.

We have, &c.
(Signed) Some Members of the Armenian Community of Smyrna.

P.S.—Your Excellency will understand the motive why we do not sign this letter.

No. 692.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 9.)

(No. 894.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 3, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora reporting outrages committed on Armenians in that district.

I am awaiting a further report on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 692.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Angora, November* 30, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, according to information which has reached me from Denek-Maden, two young Armenians who had been expelled at different times from Constantinople, and were on their way under police escort to Talas, near Cæsarea, were detained in the prison at Karali, a village situated between Angora and Denek-Maden, and there tortured to death. Both of these murders would appear to have been committed within the past two months. The name of one of the deceased was Arakil, the other man's name is unknown.

The Armenian National Assembly of Denek-Maden addressed a petition upon the subject to their Kaimakam, who, after communicating with Angora, replied that the prisoners had died a natural death, and that if any of their relatives felt dissatisfied they might address themselves to the Karali Court.

Another incident occurred a few days ago at Polatli, a village three stations distant from Angora on the Eskishehr line. An Armenian named Agop, a grocer by trade, was beaten nearly to death by five Turkish workmen upon the pretext of his owing them 15 medjidiehs.

I shall not fail to urge Tewfik Pasha, who is expected to arrive here this evening, to investigate these incidents, and inform me of the result, which I shall duly report to your Excellency, and, in the Polatli case, I shall insist upon the aggressors being summoned before the competent Court, and will do my best to have them punished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 693.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 9.)

(No. 895.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 4, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter received from the widow of the late Acting British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, describing the recent disturbances at Kharput where Mr. and Mrs. Boyajian had been spending the summer.

The house of Mrs. Boyajian was plundered, and the Consular Archives were opened and scattered.

I am informing the Sublime Porte that a claim for indemnity for these outrages will be made by Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 693.

Mrs. Boyajian to Consul Graves.

Kharput, November 13, 1895.

My dear Mr. Graves,

I WANT to send you a few lines to tell you of the terrible times that we have these days been passing through. For some days the town was disturbed, when suddenly the Turks rushed with naked swords to the hill behind our house, and we feared every moment that they would rush in our house and assassinate us, but the soldiers came and drove them off that day. But for days before this the villages on the plain have been burning, and it was said to be done by the Kurds, who have also plundered and murdered all the villagers; for days the plain has been filled with the smoke of these fires, and day after day they have been committing these outrages nearer and nearer to this place till Monday morning, when about mid-day on that day an attack was made on our quarter of the town, and some of the houses were attacked and one or two people were killed. The soldiers made a show of checking it till about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when a company of several thousand Kurds, or those who were dressed like Kurds, came up the hill and rushed upon the town, firing their guns and rifles in every direction; the soldiers again made a show of driving them off, but they rushed on, firing at the houses, killing all they met, and breaking open the houses of the Christians and plundering them, setting fire to many of them, as well as killing those they came across.

When they approached the town we left our house and came for refuge to the missionary premises, as also did many others; but the Kurds rushed upon the girls' school, burst open the doors, and flocked in. When this happened we fled from the house by another door to the hills, but the bullets fell around us like hail all the time, and it was a miracle that none of us were killed. When we got out on the hill we found that again we were not safe, for the Kurds were all around us, and continued firing. There were soldiers on the hill and a Turkish officer, and to him I applied for protection for myself and my children, and he sent us under guard to a Turkish house to stay that night, but on the way two or three times guns were levelled at us, and we should have been killed had not our guard protected us. We stayed there that night, and the next day the officer sent us with a strong guard up to the college, where the missionaries and many of the refugees had fled when the Kurds rushed into the school and plundered and set fire to the building. Every house in our quarter was plundered and most of them set fire to, so that nearly the whole quarter is a mass of blackened ruins. They entered our house and took everything that it was possible to take, and what they could not they broke to pieces; but they did not burn it down, so now we are left houseless and homeless with only just the clothes that we have upon us, and so also are the missionaries, for all their houses have been plundered, and two of them burned down. We have scarcely even bedding to lie upon, and are now much in the same condition as the inhabitants of Sasun. But still, God has preserved our lives in a wonderful way, and we feel thankful for that. I do not just know how many were massacred, but I think it was several hundred, and some girls were carried off, though not from the schools. It has been an awful time, and I cannot describe it by letter; but you can imagine something of it without any description.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. A. BOYAJIAN.

No. 694.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 897.) *Constantinople, December 5, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have been informed by Mr. Cobb, the British Postmaster at Constantinople, that on the 2nd instant he stamped "Interdit" and returned to London seven heavy packets of the Armenian publication, the "Hinchag," printed on red paper.

The number was dated the 20th November, and there must have been several hundred copies.

Mr. Cobb believes that if the "Hinchag" has hitherto been introduced into Turkey in large quantities, it must have been by some other means, as he does not remember having ever seen any in the Post Office.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 695.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 898.) *Constantinople, December 5, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Gates, one of the American missionaries at Kharpût, to a member of the Bible House here, giving a description of the massacres and burning of portions of the missionary college in that town, and representing the great danger in which he and his companions still are.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 695.

The Rev. C. Gates to Mr. Peet.

Karput College, November 13, 1895.

Dear Brother Peet,

WE are in the college buildings with a crowd of refugees. The first attack began on Sunday by a few Kurds. These were easily driven off. Monday there was another attack in the morning also repelled. These attacks amounted to little. The set time had not yet come. Monday the Aghas from the villages gathered in the city. The Kurds and Turks from the surrounding regions attacked Hurenik and slaughtered many. The soldiers went down the road to meet them. Some of the principal Moslems also went down. They had a conference with the Kurds, then the bugle blew, and the soldiers, led by their Commander, withdrew to the city, dragging their cannon in a very leisurely fashion.

After the soldiers had reached the city the Kurds and Turks came on yelling and firing. The soldiers made no attempt to stop them. They fired their cannon once harmlessly towards the city, and they fired off their guns over the heads of the enemy. The Turks of the city joined in the plunder and attack. The Armenian school was fired first, then the greater part of the Christian quarter. Christians were shot down everywhere.

I saw all these things with my own eyes, for I watched things with a field-glass until it became perfectly plain that the whole thing was definitely planned and arranged. The Christians had given up their arms and cast themselves on the protection of the Government. No Christians fired on the assailants so far as I know.

We took refuge in the girls' school until that was attacked, and Mr. Allen's house burned, and the school set on fire. Then we gathered in the yard, prepared to die together. Dr. Barnum spoke to the Military Commander, and he sent soldiers. They all left but two, and they demanded a "bakshish," or they would go. We decided to

go into the college building. As we left the school-yard a Turk fired upon us from across the yard twice, first at Mr. Allen. Then I said to him, "God chastise you," and he fired at me. He was a very bad marksman, or else God withheld him from accomplishing his purpose. There was no panic in our crowd. My family were the last to leave the yard. After we got into the school building the officers sent for us to come out. The Chief of Defence and the Mufti sent for us to come by city Governor. We would not go. We told them we had no more confidence in them, and if they wished to protect us they could protect us there. If they did not we would die there. At last the Alai Bey (Mehemed Bey, a Circassian) arrived. He was the first and only man who acted as if he meant to do anything for us. The soldiers had left us. He called them back. We got out our fire-engine and fought the fire, and he helped us. For three days I have fought fire, and cannot write now. We saved our house, Dr. Barnum's house, the Vargaran, the college building. Eight of our buildings have been burnt. All our houses were plundered before our eyes. The soldiers made no attempt to stop it. We were stripped of everything but the clothes we wore, but none of our company were wounded or killed. We owe our safety to God alone.

The Turks of the city were very much disappointed that any of our buildings were spared, and they were determined Dr. Barnum should be killed. Tuesday the Alai Bey said that he could not protect us here. Dr. Barnum told him we would not leave the building; if it was fired we would die in it. If we had left they would have burned the buildings and forced the refugees to become Moslems or suffer the penalty. Everywhere this alternative was given to men. All the Christian villages and Christian quarters of villages in this whole field have been burnt so far as I know, with the possible exception of Gurnun. You cannot state the need of help too strongly.

Tuesday, the Kurds returned to the attack (I say Kurds, they are not the Dersim Kurds, they are simply the Mussulman Kurds and the Turks of this region, and they were not a large force). Tuesday, it is said, an order came to stop them, and permission was given to shoot the Kurds. When this order came two soldiers laid down their arms. It is said that nine Kurds were killed that day at Mezreh and five up here. That finished the attack by Kurds; there was still danger from the Turks here, and there is now. We have not yet returned to our buildings, but are all in the college; 400 souls are gathered here, and we are feeding them.

Say to the foreign Ambassadors this work emanates from high quarters, and only the strongest means can prevail. Do not let them be hoodwinked.

Now as to the needs. We have nothing left, but we do not care for that so much as we do for the people. There will be need of thousands of pounds to care for the needy. From Diarbekir to Malatia, Arabkir, Egin, and Peri the whole region is a desolation. I counted twenty-one villages of which I know, but there are said to be thirty-five villages in the Char Sandjak alone, and no returns from Finkin yet. We may not yet escape with our lives, but if we do there will be great need of relief work.

This whole business has been hellish, and the Government deliberately abandoned Christians. We put ourselves under the protection of the Government again and again formally, but their protection was a sham. They and the leading men of the city and the Mems assured Dr. Barnum that no Kurd should enter the city. The Chief of Defence told Dr. Barnum that until he was cut to pieces not a Kurd should enter the city, and not a hair of our heads be injured; but he stood quietly looking on while the attack was made, and offered not even show of resistance. We had the best possible opportunity for seeing the hollowness of their professions.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) C. F. GATES.

P.S.—We shall send a telegram if we can to you and Minister Terrell. We cannot trust any one; but we don't want to be ordered out of the country. If we abandon the Christians they are lost. We have not time to write to Judge Terrell now. We rely on you to tell the facts. Saturday, we received a telegram from Judge Terrell, saying, "Are you well?" We replied at once, "Well; but danger great and imminent." We do not know whether letters and telegrams go through. Thousands of Christians have accepted Islam through fear; they want to be relieved. Is there a chance?

C. F. G.

No. 696.

Mr. Gosselin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 295.) *Berlin, December 7, 1895.*

My Lord,

BARON VON MARSCHALL told me yesterday that he feared that the flight of Said Pasha to the British Embassy, though it illustrated the distrust which prevails in Constantinople of the Sultan's intentions, would not facilitate the issue of the Firmans for the second guardships.

Germany had done, and would do, all that was possible in support of this demand, but his Excellency seemed to doubt whether the French and Russian Embassies were in earnest in pressing on the Sultan the necessity of granting this concession.

If the European concert can be maintained intact, his Excellency feels sure that the Sultan must in the long run yield, but the defection of one Power would be more than sufficient to induce the Sultan to resist the demand.

I asked the Baron whether it was true, as reported some days ago in the newspapers, that His Majesty's ship "Hagen" had been ordered to the Levant.

His Excellency said that, as far as he was aware, there was no foundation for the report; he had sent that afternoon to the Admiralty to inquire, but anyhow, the ironclad "Hagen" was far too big a ship to serve as a second "stationnaire."

M. de Szoegyenyi, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, told me a few days ago that he had had a long discussion with his Russian colleague as to the right of the Sultan to refuse the Firmans. Count Osten Sacken maintained that the Sultan has a free hand in the matter, while M. de Szoegyenyi held that if the foreign communities in Constantinople were in danger, the Powers had at least an equitable right to insist on taking due precautions for the protection of their nationals.

M. de Szoegyenyi was much struck by the argument advanced by the Russian Ambassador, as showing the reluctance of the Russian Government to take any coercive measures at the present moment at the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 697.

Evangelical Alliance to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

7, Adam Street, Strand, London, December 9, 1895.

My Lord,

THE Council of the Evangelical Alliance instruct me to communicate again with your Lordship upon the subject of religious persecution in Turkey. Since our last communication, the Council have felt that events in the Ottoman Empire had assumed so grave an aspect that they were now far removed from the question of mere religious liberty. When thousands of Armenians have been sacrificed through brutal outrages and massacres, it is no wonder that the Great Powers of Europe are taking up the matter on broad humanitarian grounds; and the Council of the Evangelical Alliance have watched with interest the efforts made by Her Majesty's Government in seeking to bring relief and protection for the oppressed Christian races of the Turkish Empire. We are also thankful to acknowledge the constant and unremitting attention given by Sir Philip Currie, Her Majesty's Ambassador, in all cases involving religious persecution, and which have been brought before his Excellency by our Committee in Constantinople.

Recent communications show us, however, that there is very real need for closely watching the development of events in Asia Minor, and the Council instruct me to forward to your Lordship the accompanying extracts from letters received from our Committee in Constantinople, and dated the 23rd and 28th November respectively. The Council trust that your Lordship will give such instructions to Her Majesty's Ambassador as will insure a vigorous protest, on the part of Great Britain at any rate, against the reintroduction of the martyrdom of Christians in Turkey, and which appears to be now on the point of realization.

While rejoicing in the united action of the Great Powers to insure better government in the Asiatic provinces of Turkey, our Council are specially anxious that the question of religious oppression should occupy the continued and serious attention

of Her Majesty's Representative, in view of any new arrangements that may be made with the Sultan's Government in the immediate future.

Our Council gratefully acknowledge the courtesy and consideration with which your Lordship has received their former communications, and they now respectfully request that the points to which attention is called in the accompanying extracts may also receive your Lordship's earnest attention.

I may add that, with reference to communications which passed between Her Majesty's Foreign Office and the Evangelical Alliance a few months ago, we were able to send extracts from the document prepared for Sir Philip Currie's use (by our Secretary in Constantinople) to the German branch of the Evangelical Alliance; and we now learn from our Berlin Committee that, as a result of the representations made to the German Government in the matter, their Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to co-operate with the British Ambassador in all matters concerning religious freedom which may need to be brought under the notice of the Porte.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) A. J. ARNOLD, *General Secretary.*

Inclosure in No. 697.

Extracts from Letters from the Constantinople Branch of the Evangelical Alliance.

November 23, 1895.

THE situation in the interior of the Empire is terrible to behold. There is fright, famine, and desolation everywhere in the six provinces which are named in the reform scheme. All business is wiped out, and there is no way of setting it up again. The people sit dazed, and listening to the continual threats of the Turks about them; they expect every day to be their last. In this city the Government is holding up golden views of what is going to be done, but the execution of these golden dreams is never thought of. The pictures drawn at Constantinople are for the entertainment of foreign Powers alone.

. . . . . One feature of this terrible crime I think that the Evangelical Alliance ought to take up. It is the determination in the country districts to seize the women and children and make them Mahommedans. In the region about Kharput, the effort has been made, and is being made, to force the men to become Moslems on a large scale. The people are starving, and when the Turks come to them and offer them bread and safety if they will accept Islamism, and at the same time tell them that they will be exterminated if they do not, the effect is to carry away many of the wretched creatures. I think that this ought to be made known at the Foreign Office. with the request that in any new arrangements which are made there should be special provision to protect those who wish to return to their own faith from being punished, as the Turks commonly punish all who abandon Mahommedanism. The case is very grave. I know of two whole villages that have become Moslems merely to save themselves from the long torture of their present mode of life.

November 28, 1895.

People are actually being given the choice in some parts of the country between renunciation of faith in Jesus Christ and the death penalty; and Dr. Barnum, of Kharput, telegraphs: "Many martyrs in villages; cannot something be done." This means that there are many who choose death rather than deny Him who shed His blood for them.

. . . . . We have comparatively little detail, for it is essential to the Turks to keep the world from seeing what they are doing until it is done. But it is clearly evident now that the process of exterminating all Christians in the six provinces of the reform scheme who will not become Moslems is progressing steadily and relentlessly outside of the cities.

No. 698.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 254.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 9, 1895.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 783 of yesterday.

I entirely approve the terms of the letter which you propose to address the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 699.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 784.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 9, 1895, 9 P.M.

THIS evening Said Pasha returned to his house.

Before leaving he addressed me a letter, copy of which I have forwarded to your Lordship by messenger (see to Foreign Office No. 918 of the 19th November).

No. 700.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 400.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 9, 1895.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 867 of the 27th ultimo, forwarding a report from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah on the steps which the Turkish authorities are taking to obtain the capture of the men alleged to be concerned in the attack on the Consuls in May last.

These measures, while they appear to have caused considerable excitement and irritation among the Bedouins of the Hareb, are not, in Mr. Abau's opinion, calculated to promote the object in view. He reports, on the other hand, that no effective preparations are being made for an expedition against the offenders, and that, unless action be shortly taken, the commencement of the pilgrimage season will afford a plausible ground for urging that military operations cannot be safely undertaken.

I approve your Excellency's action in calling the personal attention of the Sultan to the question as reported in your telegram No. 762 of the 29th ultimo, and I should wish you to press for information as to the result of the fresh orders which His Majesty promised that he would send.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 701.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 785.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 10, 1895, 3·15 P.M.

SULTAN has given way about "stationnaires" in consequence of representations of Russian Ambassador.

Admiral has been informed, and has been asked to make arrangements.

No. 702.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 786.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 10, 1895, 10 P.M.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding telegram, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, at the meeting of Ambassadors to-day, the question was raised as to when we should call up the "stationnaires." On my stating that I had already telegraphed for the "Dryad," my Austrian, French, and Italian colleagues said that they would follow my example, but the Russian Ambassador said that it might not be convenient for the Russian "stationnaire" to be ordered to come at once.

No. 703.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 787.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 10, 1895, 10·20 P.M.*

AT to-day's meeting of Ambassadors, I insisted on the necessity of something being done with regard to the massacres and pillage in Asia Minor.

I proposed that we should recommend our Governments to appoint an International Commission, which should proceed to the spot, investigate what has taken place, arrange for the restitution of the plunder to the rightful owners, and point out the guilty for punishment.

In the subsequent discussion of my proposal, my views were supported by my Austrian and Italian colleagues, but M. de Nélidoff said that, according to his instructions, the concert of the Powers only applied to measures for the protection of foreigners, and he had therefore no authority to discuss the question.

He suggested instead that we should address further representations to the Porte, but had to admit the utter futility of any such proceeding.

Finally, he said that if my proposal were adopted by Her Majesty's Government, and a formal proposal made by them to the Cabinets for the appointment of an International Commission, the question would no doubt be referred to us, and we should then be able to discuss it.

The necessity of taking some action was admitted by all, but nobody made any other suggestion, except that we should draw up a Tabular Statement in common from the information in the possession of the various Embassies, and this we agreed to do.

If this idea of an International Commission of Inquiry were actually carried out, the mere presence of European Commissioners in the disturbed districts would not fail to do good, as we have seen how valuable the influence of Consular officers, wherever they were stationed, has been. But the mere proposal, if it had no other result, would at all events frighten the Sultan into taking more strenuous action himself.

No. 704.

Abstract of a Letter received at Foreign Office, December 11, 1895.

AFTER some preliminary observations on the fate of the village of Tamchara which he compares to that of Sasun, the writer states that about the 14th (26th) October, 1895, 2,000 Turks from Agoutmush and Alijor (the first-named place one hour's journey from Karahissar and Tamchara, the latter about six hours from Karahissar) attacked the town of Karahissar. They killed between thirty and forty persons, but were ultimately beaten off after plundering the town. From Karahissar they went to Tamchara.

Tamchara, the inhabitants of which are all weavers, is a village containing about 200 Armenian houses and about eighty others.

The Turks having surrounded the place, massacred all the male inhabitants, including two priests, Krikor and Kiut. They plundered the church of St. Takavor and the convent of St. George, and then went to the houses denuding them of everything, even to the window frames.

After this they stripped the women and girls of their clothing, and violated them. All this illegal work lasted three days, and yet not a single Government official appeared, although only an hour's journey from the Government of Karahissar.

Here follow reflections on the inhuman conduct of the Turkish Government, followed by a prayer for an international inquiry.

After this the writer states that for thirty days after the Tamchara massacre Karahissar was in a state of siege. Permission was refused to go out of doors, and from this cause alone the news of the massacre did not become public, and no report reached Europe. Coming from the province of Trebizond, he continues, the whole country appeared to be in arms, and more especially so in the district of Ordu Kala, clearly portending a disaster similar to that which had overtaken other places. He wrote, therefore, to some of the Consuls at Trebizond beseeching their intervention.

The writer declares that all the specious assurances of the Turkish Government are only meant to delude, and implores the Great Powers not to put faith in any of the Edicts issuing from Constantinople, as there is no real government in the provinces. He adds that massacre to this hour continues periodically; that he has certain news of massacre and sack in Marsovan and Amasia; that Tokhat is besieged by 1,500 mounted bandits; that massacres have taken place in Sebastia (Sivas); and that the Armenians of the province of Kioilisar have been converted to Islam by fear of fire and sword.

No. 705.

Memorandum communicated by Morel Bey, December 11, 1895.

UN Iradé Impérial autorise le passage par les Détroits des seconds stationnaires que les Ambassades ont demandé à faire venir à Constantinople, à la condition que leur séjour ici sera provisoire, et que leurs formes, forces, et dimensions seront les mêmes que celles des bâtiments qui stationnent déjà dans la capitale, et lesquelles ont toujours été, d'après les Traités et suivant l'usage, bien définies.

Il va sans dire que cette autorisation spéciale ne devra affecter en aucune manière le droit du Gouvernement Impérial, consacré par les Traités, au sujet de la fermeture des Détroits du Bosphore et des Dardanelles aux bâtiments de guerre étrangers, droit qui est et demeure comme par le passé strictement intact.

Il va sans dire également que les seconds stationnaires en question ne franchiront pas en bloc les Détroits, et que chacun d'eux devra entrer isolément et à des époques séparées, après que les Ambassades auront, suivant l'usage, présenté à la Sublime Porte les listes des noms, dimensions, et autres des bâtiments précités, et obtenu chacune le Firman d'autorisation de son navire.

No. 706.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 11.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of the inclosure in a letter from the Political Resident at Aden, dated the 20th November last, regarding the Arab rising in the Yemen.

India Office, December 11, 1895.

Inclosure in No. 706.

Information given to the Native Assistant Resident, Aden, by a Resident of Sana, who came to Aden on a Visit.

SAYYID MAHOMED YAHYA (Hamid-ad-Din), the claimant to the Imamship of the whole of Yemen, left for a town called Kallet Ader, accompanied by all the tribes of Hashid and Bakil—about 45,000 (Arabs)—mostly armed with Martini-Henry and Snider rifles.

2. On their way they arrived at Khamer—two days' distance from Sana—which is under the Sayyid. Some of his Mukkadams (officers in command of troops) went against and captured Husn (Fort) Ad Dhahir from the Turks, after the loss of a number of men on both sides. The Turks fled to Haja.

3. The Sayyid's Mukaddams then proceeded against Kholkan at the fort of Badbuda (also two days' distance from Sana, easterly), which they captured. The Turks lost 300 and their opponents seven killed and three wounded.

4. The Turks went to Maswer and seized the Sheikhs there, and wished them to retake the fort of Badbuda, but they refused, as they were subjects of the Sayyid. The Sheikhs (twenty-five) were sent to Sana, where they were imprisoned for raising sedition. The Turks also returned to Sana.

5. Up to the present the Arabs are in a great state of excitement.

6. In the last month (Jomad Awal, 1313) 6,000 Turkish troops came to Sana from Constantinople. Some of them have been distributed in the districts under the Turks. The rest proceed to Imran and Khamer in Yemen.

7. A guard of ten Turkish soldiers kept at Khilat Nakil Assar, about 5 miles above Sana, were surprised by the Arabs, who killed five and turned out the others, taking away their arms.

8. The telegraph lines are being continually cut by the Arabs.

9. The Sayyid has had coins of his own made. One side is impressed with the words "Mansur Billa," on the other "Impressed at Kallet Ader."

10. All the Arab tribes under Turkish rule pay tribute or taxes surreptitiously to the Sayyid.

11. Lately the Sultan of Turkey sent letters and presents to the Sayyid through the Mushir of Sana. Both letters and presents were burnt by the Sayyid.

Aden, November 18, 1895.

No. 707.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received December 11.)

THE Secretary of the Admiralty presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to forward the following copy of a telegram received from the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station, viz.:—

"*Salonica, December* 10, 1895, 8·10 P.M.

"At request of Ambassador 'Dryad' leaves to-morrow morning for Constantinople, Firmans being granted. 'Cockatrice' comes Salonica."

Admiralty, December 11, 1895.

No. 708.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 11, 10·50 P.M.)

(No. 788.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 11, 1895, 9·10 P.M.

I HAVE informed the Porte that Her Majesty's ship "Dryad" will enter the Dardanelles to-morrow.

No. 709.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 789.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 12, 1895, 10 A.M.

THE Italian "stationnaire" is expected to arrive here to-morrow, and the Austrian two days later.

No. 710.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 791.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 12, 1895, 9·45 A.M.

MR. HAMPSON telegraphs that he is informed on reliable authority that most of the Armenians still surviving in the villages of Chatakchor, Snird, and some districts of Diarbekir have been forcibly converted to Islam. I would suggest that your Lordship should communicate this information to the Governments of the Powers, begging them to send instructions to their Ambassadors in Constantinople to consult together as to what steps could be taken to put a stop to these forced conversions. The Russian Government might very likely agree, as I believe that they feel very strongly on this point.

No. 711.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, December* 13, 1895.

I AM informed by Prince Lobanoff that M. de Nélidoff's communication to the Sultan with regard to the "stationnaire" Firmans did not differ from the representations made throughout by the Ambassadors on this subject, except that it probably carried additional weight as a personal message from the Emperor.

The following is the substance of the message:—

"Beginning by expressing his great regard for the Sultan, the Emperor stated that although it was in no way for him to dictate what course His Majesty ought under present circumstances to pursue, still he could not refrain, as a sincere friend and well-wisher of His Majesty, from advising him strongly not to persevere in his present course of action, as by doing so, he would be sure to lay himself open to considerable difficulty and vexation. It was the Emperor's hope, therefore, that the Sultan would find it possible to yield in the question of the Firmans for the passage of the second "stationnaires."

No. 712.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 250.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1895.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 791 of yesterday, repeating one from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, relative to reported forced conversions to the Moslem religion.

I will communicate with the Russian Government and ascertain what view they take of the matter.

No. 713.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 257.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1895.

IN my telegram No. 240 of the 27th ultimo, I informed your Excellency that the Armenian Relief Committee had in hand a sum of 4,000*l.*, which was available for any portion of Asiatic Turkey in which you might recommend its distribution.

The Committee now ask for information as to the present position of affairs in the Sasun district, and generally as to the distribution of relief.

I shall be glad if you will supply me with any particulars which I can communicate.

No. 714.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 258.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1895.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 787 of the 10th instant relative to a proposal made by you at a meeting of the Ambassadors at Constantinople that an International Commission should be appointed to investigate the massacres in Asiatic Turkey on the spot.

I fear that it would be impossible to induce the Russian Government to agree to the appointment of such a Commission, and that its practical working would be found very difficult.

If the Russian Government refused to accept the proposal, their refusal would be certain to become known to the Turkish Government and would encourage the Sultan to resistance of other demands.

The suggestion that the Ambassadors should compare the information received from their respective Consuls and draw up a tabular statement in common is more likely to be of practical utility.

Her Majesty's Government would sanction any necessary journeys undertaken by the British Consular officers.

I shall be glad to learn whether the idea of appointing a Mussulman as one of the new Vice-Consuls has ever occurred to you.

No. 715.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 244.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1895.

A TELEGRAM has been received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, stating that he hears on reliable authority that the greater part of the surviving Armenian villagers in Sáird, Chabakcher, and some districts of the Vilayet of Diarbekir, have been compelled to become Mussulmans.

I request you to inquire of Prince Lobanoff whether any similar intelligence has reached him, and whether it would not be desirable, in his opinion, that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should make some joint remonstrance against these forced conversions, which are entirely contrary to the professed wishes of the Sultan, and which, when they become known in this country, will arouse a very strong feeling.

I shall not communicate with the other Powers on this subject until I learn Prince Lobanoff's views.

No. 716.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 792.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 13, 1895, 1·50 P.M.

I AM informed that, by order of the Sultan, reports are being drawn up for publication, proving that, during the massacres in the Anatolian provinces, more Mussulmans were killed than Christians.

No. 717.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 793.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 13, 1895, 7·35 P.M.

HER Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush has sent me the following telegram, and it would strengthen my hands if it were communicated to the Powers:—

"It is my firm belief that the massacres are deliberately organized by the Turks, and that unless the foreign Governments intervene, they will probably continue until all the surviving Armenians become Mussulmans.

"Officials who wish to maintain order are powerless. The position gets worse from day to day, and bankruptcy and famine at least are inevitable.

"I beg to deny emphatically for my district the statement of the English newspapers, that there is a rebellious movement on the part of the Armenians."

No. 718.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 794.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 13, 1895, 8 P.M.

IT may be roughly stated that the recent disturbances have devastated, as far as the Armenians are concerned, the whole of the provinces to which the scheme of reforms was intended to apply; that over an extent of territory considerably larger than Great Britain all the large towns, with the exception of Van, Samsoun, and Mush, have been the scene of massacres of the Armenian population, while the Armenian villages have been almost entirely destroyed. A moderate estimate puts the loss of life at 30,000. The survivors are in a state of absolute destitution, and in many places they are being forced to turn Mussulman.

The charge against the Armenians of having offered provocation cannot be sustained. Non-Armenian Christians were spared, and the comparatively few Turks who fell were killed in self-defence.

The participation of the soldiers in the massacres is in many places established beyond doubt, while both here and in the provinces it is firmly believed by the best-informed persons that the attacks were ordered from Constantinople.

I do not intend the above remarks to apply to the Vilayet of Aleppo, as it is not one of the six vilayets included in the reform scheme.

No. 719.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 401.) *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 884 A of the 29th ultimo reporting what passed at your Excellency's audience with the Sultan on that day.

I approve your Excellency's language on this occasion, and I entirely concur in the

views expressed by you with regard to the promulgation of the scheme, accepted by His Majesty, for reforms in the Asiatic provinces, and to the demand made by the Ambassadors at Constantinople for the admission of second "stationnaires."

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 720.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, December 14, 1895.*

PRINCE LOBANOFF has received no intelligence similar to that contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 244.

He considers that this information would in any case be very difficult to prove, and he is evidently inclined to doubt it.

On the other hand, if the Powers agreed to it, he would have no objection to a joint remonstrance on the subject, if the news is confirmed.

The best plan, he thought, would be to leave it to the Ambassadors at Constantinople to verify the report, and to take any action that might be necessary.

His Excellency thinks that the Sultan should be allowed time to restore order in Asia Minor; and he is, therefore, much in favour of as little interference as possible in Turkish affairs at the present moment.

He had just received news from an Armenian of Larnaca to the effect that massacres were occurring in which the Redifs were concerned, although the Turkish Ambassador, who had called that day, had assured him that everything was now quiet.

No. 721.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 795.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 14, 1895, 11·40 A.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 250 of the 13th December.

I feel sure that the Russian Ambassador overcame the Sultan's reluctance to granting the Firmans, by stating that if His Majesty withheld them there was to be a meeting of Ambassadors the following day at which a date would be fixed, after which the "stationnaires" would pass the Dardanelles, Firman or no Firman.

At our last meeting, M. de Nélidoff as good as admitted this.

No. 722.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 796.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 14, 1895, 12·5 P.M.*

I LEARN from Mgr. Azarian, the Armenian Catholic Patriarch, that he has received a Report from his ecclesiastics at Arabkir, in the Vilayet of Kharput, stating that, out of 2,500 Armenian houses there, 2,300 have been destroyed, of which 90 belonged to Armenian Catholics. Many were killed, and many others, as their last chance of saving their lives and property, became Mussulman. His Beatitude also mentioned two villages in the same district where the entire population had been wiped out during the massacre.

No. 723.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 798.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 14, 1895, 8 P.M.*

I HAVE received a telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at the Dardanelles, announcing the passage of the French "stationnaire."

No. 724.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 403.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 14, 1895*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 895 of the 4th instant, inclosing an extract of a letter from Mrs. Boyadjian, widow of the late Acting British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, giving an account of the recent disturbances at Kharput, in the course of which her house was entered and its contents plundered.

I approve of your Excellency informing the Porte that an indemnity will be claimed for this outrage.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 725.

Foreign Office to Evangelical Alliance.

Foreign Office, December 14, 1895.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, relative to religious persecution in Turkey, and calling special attention to the question of forced conversions to Islamism, cases of which have been reported to the Evangelical Alliance by their Committee at Constantinople.

I am to state that the subject matter of your communication continues to engage the earnest attention of Her Majesty's Government, and of the British Ambassador at Constantinople, to whom a copy of your letter will be forwarded.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 726.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 800.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 15, 1895, 11 A.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs that the Zeitounlis have imprisoned as spies the Commission of Notables sent to Zeitoun to treat with them.

No. 727.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 363. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 8, 1895.*

I CALLED the day before yesterday on Count Goluchowski, and said that it seemed that at Constantinople no progress was being made in obtaining the Firmans for the second "stationnaires." I asked his Excellency, therefore, what he proposed to do.

Count Goluchowski acknowledged that the hesitation of the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh was causing considerable prejudice to the success of the demand for those Firmans. The Sultan speculates on the possibility of a divergence of opinion between the six Powers, and is, of course, well aware of what is going on in regard to the instructions to the Ambassadors.

But the fact that the ex-Grand Vizier, Said Pasha, had invoked the protection of the British Embassy, and had sought asylum there, would probably convince the Russian Government that the Sultan's promises are not to be trusted as implicitly as they affect to believe; and would, it might be hoped, induce Prince Lobanoff to assent to the proposal to empower the Ambassadors to increase the pressure upon His Ottoman Majesty.

When the Sultan once sees that all the six Powers are unanimous and in serious earnest, Count Goluchowski was convinced that he must give way; but his Excellency stated his opinion that a little more time should be allowed before taking any further step.

There was so much less energy in Count Goluchowski's language in giving this opinion than he has recently employed in alluding to the resistance of the Sultan that I began to feel apprehensive that he was allowing himself to be influenced by the apparent unwillingness of some of the other Cabinets to maintain the demand for the Firmans; especially as he made use of expressions implying that he might be disposed to acquiesce in not making use of the Firmans, when granted, if other Powers took this view.

I hinted, therefore, that Her Majesty's Government might not be inclined to concur in accepting such a rebuff as would be involved in a desistance from the thorough execution of the original project; and that, unless the situation at Constantinople in regard to the second "stationnaires" were speedily cleared, they would very probably come forward with proposals for such action as, while in no way infringing the special Treaty provisions which protect Constantinople from maritime menace, would show the Sultan that he is not invulnerable outside his capital.

Count Goluchowski, however, declared that, in his opinion, the situation was far from demanding the consideration, far less the adoption, of any measures of the kind.

He suggested, moreover, that the precipitate broaching of such ideas might have the effect of sacrificing the unanimity between the six Powers which it is so essential to maintain; and, although he readily admitted that they could not sit quiet under such a rebuff from the Sultan as the refusal of the Firmans, the whole of his language implied that he objected to any action which might have the appearance of coercing His Majesty.

I confess that I left his Excellency with the very disagreeable impression in my mind that his original ardour had already exhausted itself, and that the prolonged hesitation shown at St. Petersburgh and at Paris, and apparently acquiesced in at Berlin, had had its effect upon his hitherto determined attitude. I was aware also that even in the official world here there are several personages who insist that Count Goluchowski has been, through his precipitancy and his readiness to keep step with England, the cause of suspicion on the part of Russia and France.

I was therefore surprised and gratified when his Excellency told me yesterday afternoon when announcing that the Russian and French Ambassadors had at last received satisfactory instructions, that, after our conversation of the preceding day, he had telegraphed urgently to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to inform Prince Lobanoff that, in his view, Russia, who had herself suggested the summons of the second "stationnaires," could not now with honour retreat from her proposal, and that he had spoken strongly in the same sense to Count Kapnist.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 728.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 299.) *Berlin, December 9, 1895.*

My Lord,

ON my arrival here last night I requested Mr. Gosselin, Her Majesty's Secretary of Embassy, to call this morning on the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and to

ascertain when it would be convenient to his Excellency to receive me. Baron von Marschall having appointed an hour, I called upon his Excellency, and delivered to him the copies of the letters which the Queen had addressed to the German Emperor and Empress to accredit me as Her Majesty's Ambassador.

Baron von Marschall received me very cordially, and said he would take His Imperial Majesty's orders as to the date of my official reception.

I took this opportunity of assuring Baron von Marschall of the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government to maintain the most friendly relations with the German Empire, and I begged him to believe that I should lose no opportunity of contributing, as far as in me lay, to so desirable a result.

Baron von Marschall, in reply, said that the desire was reciprocal, and that the Emperor and his Government were sincerely anxious to be on the best terms with England.

His Excellency then alluded to the state of things existing at Constantinople, more especially to Said Pasha having thought it necessary to take refuge at the British Embassy, and to the hesitation of the Sultan to agree to the demands of the Powers for a second gun-boat. The great danger, in his Excellency's opinion, was the growing discontent of the Mussulman population against the Sultan, which, if it took the form of a revolt against His Majesty as Caliph, might give rise to serious complications. Hitherto, the Great Powers had been able to act together at Constantinople, and he had no doubt that they all desired to continue to do so, but he could not but feel some apprehension that it would be very difficult to maintain their unanimity if it became necessary to take active measures.

I replied that it appeared to me to be almost hopeless to expect that Russia would consent to any coercive measures against the Sultan. In the frequent conversations which I had had with Prince Lobanoff on the Armenian question during my residence as Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh his Excellency's language had never varied. Russia would willingly co-operate with the view of obtaining greater security for the life and property of the Armenians, but she could not admit that any special privileges should be granted to the Armenian subjects of the Sultan, and she would in no case consent to the employment of force against her.

Baron von Marschall expressed his concurrence in this view, and added that the German Emperor entertained a strong affection for his cousin, the Emperor of Russia, with whom he was in constant communication. His Excellency hoped that this sentiment, which he had reason to believe was reciprocated by the Emperor of Russia, might bring about a better understanding between the two countries.

I observed that I should have great pleasure in reporting what his Excellency had said to your Lordship, as I was convinced that a good understanding between Germany and Russia was most desirable, and would go far towards securing the maintenance of the peace of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 729.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 300.)

My Lord,

Berlin, December 9, 1895.

AFTER my interview with Baron von Marschall which formed the subject of my preceding despatch of this day's date, I called upon the Chancellor of the Empire, who received me with great cordiality.

Prince Hohenlohe's language corresponded entirely with that I had just heard from Baron von Marschall, both as regarded the desire of the German Government to maintain the most friendly relations with England, and the state of affairs at Constantinople. His Highness also alluded to the aspirations of the Armenians for an independent kingdom, which he feared were encouraged by the Armenian Committees in England, and which it was impossible should ever be realized. His Highness also referred to the excited state of public opinion in England with regard to the Armenian atrocities.

I observed that, as far as I was able to judge, the excitement had somewhat subsided, and public opinion seemed now to be more directed to what was taking place at Constantinople.

On my rising to take leave Prince Hohenlohe was kind enough to express his pleasure at seeing me in Berlin, and added that he felt convinced that we should be able to discuss matters in a calm and friendly manner, even on questions where there might be "des froissements."

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 790.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 809.) *Constantinople, December 7, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Acting Consul at Erzeroum, forwarding a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting depredations committed by Kurds in all parts of the province.

I am presenting a Memorandum on the state of the Van Vilayet to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 790.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Erzeroum, November 18, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the state of that province.

Mr. Hallward gives details of an encounter between a large band of armed Armenians from Persia and some Hamidieh troops and Kurds, and he reports depredations by the latter in all directions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 790.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Cumberbatch.

Van, November 13, 1895.

Sir,

LAST week a band of fifty-seven Armenians was bringing arms over the Persian frontier to Van, having started in consequence of the alarming rumours current respecting the state of affairs in this town, when, soon after passing the frontier, they were seen by a Kurd, who gave word to the Government at Serai, which is some four hours from the frontier, and the residence of a Kaïmakam. A detachment of Kurd Hamidieh troopers with some zaptiehs were sent against them, and a fight ensued, in which about twelve Kurds and eight of the Armenians were killed. The troops then retired, and the band partly dispersed, but some twenty-three of them continued their journey to Van and got as far as the village of Bogaz Kessen; the villagers were unwilling to receive them, but they succeeded in obtaining temporary shelter, when the Kurds of the neighbouring village of Hajji Kishla got news of their arrival, and Jindi (see my despatch of the 10th June last) came with a band of Kurds and surrounded the village and called on the Armenians to surrender; the latter then came out and exchanged shots with the Kurds, who, after losing three or four men, among them Jindi, retired, and the Armenians fled to the neighbouring mountain of Akhta with the loss of two men. Two Armenians have been brought here as prisoners.

The inhabitants of Bogaz Kessen also fled to the neighbouring village of Hazira, which was also subsequently looted, and the inhabitants of that village have fled, I am

told, but one of the villagers whom I have seen did not seem to know exactly what had become of them.

The Kurds near Serai meantime found the occasion a good one for plunder, and a large number of them, under the leadership of Hussein Bey Takouri, a Hamidieh Kaïmakam, and the sons of Mehemed Bey of Setmanis, also a Hamidieh Kaïmakam, assembled at Serai on the 8th instant and plundered the shops, which are mostly kept by Armenians, and entered the houses of the Nestorian inhabitants and completely looted them; they drove off all the cattle and sheep, and took every kind of property on which they could lay hands. The Kaïmakam and the Colonel who commands the Hamidiehs of the district, and a detachment of about forty regulars, remained absolutely inactive, and made no attempt to check the Kurds.

The Government has done nothing whatever to punish the Kurds concerned in the plunder of the Adeljevaz and Arjish villages, related in my despatch of the 6th November; some of the villagers of Arrine returned there with the soldiers who were sent from here, but the Kurds came again, beat them, and took the few remaining things they found in the village, and the villagers again fled. A large number of those villagers, probably some 3,000 or 4,000, are at present quartered on various Armenian villages on this side of the lake; they are afraid to return, and if they did would have nothing to live on.

Since then the Kurds have been plundering the Armenian villages in all directions on a scale unprecedented since the Russo-Turkish war; they take not only their sheep and cattle, but their household goods, winter provisions, and everything they can carry off. To mention an instance which I have just heard, a certain Ahmed Khan, a Hamidieh officer of the Shemski tribe, who lives at Lim, a village five hours to the east of this, with other Kurds of the same tribe, is collecting plunder from all the surrounding Armenian villages; among others his men last night looted the village of Derman, two hours from here, carrying off sheep, cattle, and everything else they could find. I also hear that a band of Kurds is now in the Armenian district of Haigatsor, a few hours to the south-east, plundering the villages.

The Armenians are in despair, and do not know where to turn for help. The Government does absolutely nothing for them. Most of the villagers were poor enough already, but they are now reduced to very starvation at the beginning of winter, and their present outlook seems hopeless indeed.

The apathy and connivance of the Government at the doings of the Kurds has caused great alarm in the town, as it is felt that should any disturbance break out and the Kurds from outside join in, it might assume very serious proportions. Hitherto it has been quiet enough, and a certain number of Redifs have been collected here, so that the military force ought to suffice to suppress any disturbance in the town if they can be trusted to do their duty.

The Catholicos of Akhtamar arrived here a few days ago; he is an old man in very feeble health, but is most anxious to know if nothing can be done for his people. He reports that the Kurds are plundering on the same scale in the district to the south, in Shattakh, Kavash, Garchigan, and Khizan (Bitlis Vilayet). In the latter district several men have been killed, among them a certain Sahag Vartabed, of the Monastery of Sourp Hatch, whose guest I was on my return from Mukus a month ago, and two other priests; fourteen men of the village of Argo in that district were made Moslem under panic of death by the Sheikh of Khizan.

Under these circumstances the talk about reforms appears painfully ironical to those who see what is going on here, and, indeed, it is difficult to see how any reforms are to be carried out with such an administration. In any case, before all other reforms, it is absolutely necessary that definite instructions should be sent to the authorities here to use military force to arrest the principal Kurds who are devastating the province, and to hold the local authorities responsible for the security of the inhabitants and their property.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 731.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 16.*)

(No. 900.) *Constantinople, December 7, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, forwarding copy of a private letter received by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, giving further details about disorders in Bitlis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 731.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Erzeroum, November 18, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, I have the honour to forward a copy of a private letter transmitted to me by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, giving further details about the disorders at Bitlis.

Mr. Hampson calls special attention to the fact that the two previous communications to him, referred to by Mr. Knapp, never reached him, while Mr. Vice-Consul Hallward's special messenger to Bitlis was not allowed to deliver his letter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 731.

Mr. Knapp to Vice-Consul Hampson.

Bitlis, November 6, 1895.

Dear Sir,

YOUR favour of the 2nd instant was received yesterday. About two hours after getting your registered note I sent a few lines to Emner Bey, asking for the letter from Mush, and then he sent two policemen with it. We have sent three telegrams to Mush, two to Van, two to Constantinople, and one to Erzeroum, but we have no assurance that any of them have been sent. A letter brought from Van by Mr. Hallward's servant and seized by the Government about a week ago, has not been given up. This, with numerous other signs, shows that the Government, instead of trying to protect us, is trying to make our condition as dangerous as possible.

Yesterday, the twelfth day after the massacre, the Government sent men for the first time to inquire after us, and this I attribute wholly to your letter to Emner Bey. On the fourth day after trouble began, and threats were pouring of an attack on this house, I sent him a note asking him for protection, to which he merely replied by word of mouth to have no fear.

Last night, since your letter came, has been the first genuine patrol on this street. The second day I came near being shot by our nearest Moslem neighbour while on the roof. Since then I have not only not ventured out of doors, but not even on the roof. We keep a number of men and boys in the house for guard, and I have thus far slept with my clothes on. We are practically under siege, and will continue to be as long as outside aid has not arrived. All the Armenians are similarly situated. With the exception of the two khans no goods have been left them in the market. Very few, if any, have supplies for winter. Most of the villages near us are in a similar condition, but almost worst of all is the large village of Coultik, two hours east of us.

It would be impossible to get funds and relieve the great need that now exists and will exist this winter. Besides, so many heads and workers in families are gone (killed).

The situation will not be correctly apprehended unless it is known that this is a war of extermination, backed by the Government, and sure to go on unless foreign force

soon intervenes. Government officials have said that what has been permitted will be all, unless the Sultan fails to get out of his present troubles, in which case what is left will be wiped away.

If there is a desire to save what little life remains, there must soon be sent foreign forces into these parts, even if it leads to a partition of the Empire to do so. Believe me there is no safety whatever in the hands of the Turks. Treachery and deceit is all we can expect from them. I am morally certain that I, and perhaps even you, would have been killed by uniformed men if we had been found out in the streets that fatal Friday. Even now the Government is making an effort in the trial to show that I am at the bottom of all that has happened.

For fear that my two previous communications on the subject have not reached you, I will briefly go over the facts again.

On Monday, the 21st October, it was quite generally known that the scheme (of reforms) had been accepted, but the Armenians treated the news with wonderful prudence, and studiously avoided giving any offence to the Moslems. The latter tried in many ways to pick quarrels, but the Armenians avoided them. The condition of the markets was much strained, and on Tuesday and Wednesday a number of Armenians closed their shops earlier than usual. On Thursday the Bishop and several leading Armenians called on Emner Bey and discussed the situation, and begged that means for safety be used. He assured them that he would do everything that was necessary, and bid them have no concern. At the same time he showed the telegram announcing the acceptance of the reform scheme. Encouraged by these assurances, many Armenians went to market on Friday who had half decided not to go. But when they saw the Moslems going in large numbers to the mosques, and armed, and doing the unprecedented thing of locking up their shops before going, they were suspicious, and began to close their shops too. Youssouf, the son of the Belidié Reis, Hajji Yassin, upbraided an Armenian opposite for closing his shop. Upon this two other Armenians left their shops and ran away. Two zaptiehs drew their swords and gave chase. Youssouf then fired off a revolver, which was heard at the Ouli-Jami mosque, and the inmates poured out right and left and killed whomsoever they could get hold of. Then a bugle sounded, soldiers were on the scene to help kill, and the approaches were all held. Zaptiehs and police were especially active in the butchery and pillage. The call off was not sounded till towards evening. There is not the least doubt that the whole thing was planned by the Moslem leaders, with the knowledge and even support of the Government. Some 250 bodies have been collected. It is safe to say that 500 were killed in the city.

Some 120 soldiers came in from Saint Sunday evening. About 200 more came on Thursday. We have now two stations in this ward. About 100 leading Armenians are held in prison who were seized in the khans and elsewhere, where they had fled for safety. An effort is being made to force them to say that they attacked the mosques. A more insane fabrication could not be invented.

Emner Bey has just sent for the letters. We all thoroughly appreciate what you have done for us.

Yours, &c,

(Signed) GEORGE P. KNAPP.

No. 732.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 16.*)

(No. 901.) *Constantinople, December 7, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, forwarding a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, reporting the depredations of Kurds in all directions, and expressing fears of further disorders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 732.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Erzeroum, November 20, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, reviewing the situation in that town and district.

Mr. Hampson states that fears of disorders in the town were greater than ever, and that Kurdish excesses continue in all directions. He also speaks in discouraging terms of the probable results of the contemplated reforms.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 732.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Mush, November 13, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, although there has been no actual disorder in Mush so far, the situation has in general become worse. A fresh panic has been caused by the news of the massacre in Diarbekir: the Mussulmans are again parading the streets fully armed, declaring that Mush must not be the only exception in the good work of exterminating the Christians; in fact absolute terror and insecurity still appear to reign; Kurds are murdering and pillaging in every direction, almost undisturbed, and the common opinion is—not unnaturally, perhaps, under the circumstances—that the whole business has been deliberately organized by the Government and authorities.

Moreover, the tenour of the accepted reforms is now known to both Christians and Mussulmans. The former cannot see what they will gain thereby, even if any of them survive until the reforms are nominally put in force. The absence—as they consider—of any approach to real control; the fact that all Valis and Mutessarifs will still be Mussulmans; the continued existence of the Hamidieh cavalry; the omission of any reference to, or compensation for, the Sasun massacre; the fact that no provision is made against the re-employment of officials dismissed for misconduct, and many other points, all lead them to believe that they have waited so long only for another ineffective and illusory paper scheme. They are in despair.

On the other hand, the Turks openly say that absolutely no change will be made by the reforms, and consider that the fact that this is all that the Sultan has at last been graciously pleased to accept is a direct encouragement and approval of their conduct hitherto. That this is the view of the authorities here seems evident by the prompt reinstatement of the police officers who were dismissed for misconduct on my representations, as reported in my preceding despatch.

The outlook seems to me most ominous, and the situation here is certainly far worse than at any time since my arrival.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 735.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 16.*)

(No. 902.) *Constantinople, December 7, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, reporting on the critical position in the town of Kharpout and Kurdish raids in the villages.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 735.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Erzeroum, November 20, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a private letter from Kharpout, giving a further account of the critical state of things in that town immediately preceding the disorders which subsequently took place there, and reporting on the excesses of Kurds in the surrounding villages.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 735.

Private Letter from Kharpout, dated November 2, 1895.

(Extract.)

THIS city has been comparatively quiet during the week, although it has not been free from fear. The Acting Vali, Emri Bey, has been on the alert. The villages are in a worse condition. Where Christians live alone they are subject to attack by night from without. Where the population is mixed the Turks threaten them, and they live in constant fear. The gendarmes are so much scattered that Emri Bey informs me that he is enrolling 100 new men so as to put five or six in every village where there are Christians. It is not yet apparent what effect the knowledge of the Sultan's acceptance of the demand of the Powers will have upon the Turks.

At present the most serious disturbance and occasion for fear is the lawlessness of the Kurds. This I have mentioned several times, but the case grows worse daily.

A few days ago I inclosed a list of villages that had been interfered with in the region of Egin. A letter received from Egin yesterday from Alander Effendi Kassabian says that his two sons, Bedros and Mihran, were at Konrod Chai, where they have land, and finding the situation uncomfortable, they decided to go home. They joined a large caravan of Eginlis, and were just starting, when some 300 Kurds came upon them, and robbed them, taking their money (50 liras), their watches, two mares, and their other property. They were about starting again, when a Turk said to the Kurds, "These men are rich, why don't you take them and hold them for ransom?" Acting upon this, they were seized, and told to send to Egin for 300*l.*, but they said it would be impossible to raise that amount, when a Turk, acting as mediator, arranged that the sum should be 130*l.* They were taken to the mountains, their father raised the 130*l.*, gave it to the Kaimakam, and he sent it by a zaptieh, and the young men were released. This is one of the most prominent families of Egin. The caravan was also stripped, but the mules were not taken.

I have several times written that all the Kurds north of the river have the impression that the Government wishes them to plunder the Armenians. Even in the Palu region they say this, and the universal testimony from the Dersim is that Zekki Pasha has given them this permission.

Mouradjian came from the region of Khozat on Monday, where he had been among the villages on business. He gives the names of four Kurdish villages where he saw messengers from Ar-lan Bey, who gave word to the Aghas to bring their armed men. On Wednesday of this week I saw a letter written by an Armenian at Khozat to his friends here, saying that an Agha had told him that they were raising 1,500 armed men to attack the Christians, but the Agha said, "I tell you this because you are my friend. If the Armenians in Kharpout make any trouble, we shall make a raid upon them, but I will take care of you."

On Tuesday of this week I called on the Acting Vali, and, among other things, I told him that even in the city there was fear of the Kurds. He said that the Reserves had been called out, and dispatched to the Dersim to restrain the Kurds, and he showed me a telegram which he had received from the Grand Vizier reproving the Local Government for not restraining the Kurds, as complaint had come from Sivas that they were molesting the region of Divrik. I told him that Ashvan, a village this side of the river, had its sheep driven off, that it was generally reported that the Kurds were planning to cross the river, and that the chief ground of fear now in the city was the report that the Kurds would make a raid upon the city; and I asked him to send an order to all the ferries and to the "Kelleks" not to allow armed Kurds to pass. He

promised to do so, but I fear that he did not do it, for Thursday afternoon a large body of Kurds again came to Ashvan, and plundered the whole village, even carrying off the clothes of the people. These are all Armenians. Yesterday (Friday) they came to the village of Pertek, a village of some thirty Christian houses on the other bank of the river, but at the point nearest to this city, three hours from this, and stripped it clean. I have had two delegations from there to-day. I sent a man at once to the Vali, but he says, "What can I do?" Three men were killed there, and one had his hand cut off. Many people, even Turks, have removed their most valuable goods from their shops in this market.

After a conference with the Vali and the Liva Pasha to-day, the two Bishops and the Civil Head of the Protestants sent a telegram to the Sultan, and also to their respective Heads, saying that the Kurds were plundering and destroying the Christians. The Vali says that he has telegraphed several times to Constantinople, but he gets no response. These two officials, when seen together, gave the impression of indifference, and although there are soldiers here, they made no moving to protect the villages or the city. It is the almost universal conviction among the Christian population that the Government is not sorry to have the Armenians robbed and killed, even if they have not helped to set this movement in train. It does not seem credible, and yet it is impossible to explain the present inertness of the Government.

Some Mahommedans living among the Armenians are moving their household effects to Moslem quarters.

Monday, November 4.—I have been busy all day consulting with the leading Christians and with Government officials. Since I wrote on Saturday the Kurds have crossed the river and plundered several villages, and they are now within two or three hours of the city. Many refugees are coming in, and they report that Turks join the Kurds in plunder. The Government and the Ulema promise protection, but we do not know how much confidence we can place in their promises.

No. 734.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 16.*)

(No. 903.) *Constantinople, December 7, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, recapitulating recent events in that Consular district, and giving a general review of the situation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 734.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Herbert.

Erzeroum, November 24, 1895.

Sir,

AS the disorders seem to have more or less subsided, in this province at least, I have the honour to recapitulate the most important of the regrettable events that have taken place in this Consular district during the six weeks that I have been in charge of this post.

The first incident that occurred to aggravate the latent ill-feeling of the Mussulmans against Armenians, and to produce the first unmistakable signs of a contemplated massacre and pillaging of the latter, was the attack on the Colonel and his escort near Kemakh (Erzingian) last August, that led to reprisals in the shape of the plundering of villages, and the committing of various outrages, in that district.

The Kurds, especially those of the Dersim Mountains, likewise showed signs of more than usual depredatory activity, and stories of their lawlessness in every direction became daily more frequent.

The news of the Constantinople and Trebizond troubles created a very uneasy feeling everywhere, the Armenians viewing the massacres in those places as warnings of what might any day happen to themselves, and the Mussulmans, furnished with the misleading official versions of those disturbances, preparing to emulate their co-religionists.

The first news of the wholesale raids came, in the middle of October, from the villages of the Ispir and Baiburt regions, which were swept by large Laz bands, coming fresh from the sacking of Trebizond, assisted by Mussulman villagers.

On the 21st October the disorders at Erzingian took place, followed by those at Bitlis (25th October), at Baiburt (27th October), and Erzeroum (30th and 31st October).

In the meantime, all the Armenian villages, with very few exceptions, of the Terdjan, Passin, and Khinis districts were plundered by Kurds, Lazes, or Mussulman villagers, and the same devastation took place in the Erzeroum plain, and, in fact, all over the Vilayets of Van, Bitlis, and Kharpout.

It will take some time to make a list of all the villages that have suffered, but, from the accounts already received, very few have escaped, and then only in consequence of paying large sums of money to their Mussulman neighbours, or to Kurdish Chiefs, or by embracing Islamism.

The disorders at Diarbekir commenced on the 10th instant, to be followed by those at Kharpout, Arabkir (10th instant), and Mush (15th instant), Van being the only town of any importance in this Consular district that has, so far as I know, escaped.

Though it is difficult—owing to the disparity between official and Armenian accounts—to form an accurate estimate of the total number of Armenians who have lost their lives in the above-mentioned towns, I reckon it at over 2,500.

As to the loss of life in the villages of these five provinces, it is impossible to say what it is, but the Kurdish raids were not, as a general rule, accompanied by bloodshed.

The loss of property, however, has been enormous, and the whole Armenian population of the affected districts is practically ruined.

The survivors will take many years to recover, if ever they do, from the terrible blow they have received, and the Government revenues will be sensibly affected by the loss of so many tax-payers, and by the crippling of trade and agriculture, not to mention the acute revival of race hatred, which will, perhaps, never be extinguished.

It is true that the authorities, here at any rate, have done something towards recovering the pillaged goods and the raided cattle, but, notwithstanding their boasts of success in this matter, only a very small percentage of the loot has been, or is likely to be, returned to the rightful owners, especially in the case of valuables, winter provisions, small articles, &c., which can be effectively concealed.

In fact, they have only done just enough in the way of restituting stolen property, succouring the needy, helping the distressed, and restoring order after the harm has been done, to enable them to create a belief, in certain quarters, that their conduct all along has been of a praiseworthy nature, and that the mischief done to the Armenians has been remedied.

Both Shakir Pasha and Raouf Pasha, as well as the intelligent and patriotic Turks in general, deplore what has happened, whatever may be the feeling in official circles at Constantinople and among the fanatical Moslems, and they are now doing their best to restore order and tranquillity. If they are allowed a free hand, especially in the choice of subordinates, there is reason not to despair of the success of their efforts for the future good government of the Armenian provinces, notwithstanding the unfavourable outlook, but, if they are to be thwarted in their good intentions by superior interference, Shakir Pasha will most certainly fail in his mission of reform, and all chances of a betterment of the condition of the inhabitants of these provinces will have to be abandoned so long as the present corrupt régime continues to rule the affairs of this country.

On the side of the Armenians, judicious counsels will have to prevail, and the futile agitations of the revolutionists must cease if further troubles are to be avoided.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 735.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 16.*)

(No. 904.) *Constantinople, December 7, 1895.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 876 of the 29th November, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting on the situation at Samsoun.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 735.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, November 26, 1895.

Sir,

IN mine of the 20th instant copy of a despatch from our Consular Agent at Samsoûn was annexed.

On the following day I received a telegram from him worded thus:—

"Reçu lettre. Vous communiquerai renseignements demandés par prochain. Panique très grande, mais grave mesures prises. Gouverneur espère encore aucun accident. Je demande, pour tranquilliser esprits, faire afficher une Proclamation claire et nette faisant bien comprendre intention Gouvernement. Gouverneur répondu outrepasser ses droits. Obtenez cela du Vali. Juge cette mesure indispensable. Vous confirme cette dépêche par lettre."

The contents of this telegram, together with that of the despatch, will account, I hope, for my having on its receipt wired to the Embassy in the sense that disturbances were apprehended at Samsoun, that full discretionary power should be allowed to its Governor, and that a ship of war was desirable there without removing the one here.

The Vali, I need scarcely say, granted at once the permission required, and I have this day received the following telegram from Mr. de Cortanze:—

"Proclamation à la population pour maintien ordre affichée dans toute la ville. Effet produit excellent."

Copy and translation of the Notice referred to therein as posted up at Samsoun is herewith inclosed for your Excellency's perusal. The Russian gun-boat "Uraletz," I further understand, is on her way there, while her sister-ship "Teretz" returned here last night—after coaling at Batoum.

Allow me, before ending, to make a few remarks of an explanatory character. I should not like it to be supposed that I have given the question undue importance and urgency. My opinion has always been that no serious disturbances were possible without the connivance of the authorities. It is an opinion which I expressed clearly enough in my despatch of the 2nd July. The sad events which have since happened have not tended greatly to modify this impression. I, indeed, still hold to the belief that the Turks are by nature and precept obedient, law-abiding, and orderly. This was sufficiently proved on the occasion of the Armenian demonstration reported in my despatches of the 25th and 27th May. The blame of wholesale massacres must therefore rest with the governing classes, in whose hands the people are mere tools, sharpened or blunted according to political exigencies and personal interests. It follows from this that the majority of the officials are wanting in humane sentiments; there are, however, others, though in small minority, who, if encouraged, could keep the unscrupulous within bounds. Our aim must therefore be to weaken the hands of the bad and strengthen those of the good. This was one of my objects, but I had another in venturing to suggest the dispatch of a war-vessel to Samsoun and the investment of the Governor there with absolute power. It is the potent reason that, should a riot break out in that town, the safety

of the Christians along the whole coast would be affected by arousing into activity those violent passions which are kept at present with such difficulty in check.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 735.

Official Proclamation.

(Translation.)

IT is the wish of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan that all his subjects and other inhabitants under his Imperial protection should live in peace, confidence, and tranquillity. The Imperial wish is emphatically reiterated by several Imperial Orders and Decrees. Whoever, therefore, of whatever class or religion, attempts the life, honour, or property of any one, in opposition to the Sheri and Imperial will, shall, according to the orders of His Imperial Majesty, be punished severely and summarily. The local authorities, having taken all measures for the maintenance of public peace by appointing and establishing patrols and guard-houses with Imperial soldiers, are watching attentively even the most insignificant movement of the people. Hence every one must set aside fear and excitement, and live like before, honestly and honourably attending to his own work and business. This we officially declare in the name of the local authorities.

The Mutessarif of Djanik,

(Signed) HAMDI.

Samsoun, November 10 (22), 1895.

No. 736.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 16.*)

(No. 905.) *Constantinople, December 7, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting on the recent massacres at Sivas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 736.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, November 28, 1895.

Sir,

TWO letters by the same mail have this day reached me from Dr. Jewett at Sivas. In the one of the 13th instant he says: "Great massacre of Armenians here yesterday. It began in the market about 11 o'clock A.M. Number killed unknown. A policeman says 300, but accurate figures are not yet obtainable. The Mahommedans are like savages. Great amount of looting has been done all over the city, and was unrestrained by the soldiers. Massacre was effected by local Mahommedans. So long as such things remain unpunished we may expect it to go on. I have telegraphed to the American Minister, but did not like to try the wire for you. Same thing has been going on in villages and towns all about. Gurun was seriously menaced by Kurd and local Turks. May have been ruined by this time. The slaughter at Malatia was very great. It is reported by Armenian and Circassian eyewitnesses that scarcely a Christian adult male escaped. Women were carried off by the Kurds. Four Capuchin monks reported killed. The Vali debates on the responsibility of the Armenians for carrying arms, and in the meantime they are slaughtered.

"Everywhere the Kurds and Turks say they have orders from high quarters to kill and plunder the Christians. A Kaimakam so reported to the Vali. Order partially restored here. Foreigners were guarded.

"Day before yesterday a Turk warned an Armenian acquaintance of mine not to go to the market yesterday, and promised to go to his house and guard it."

In the one of the 19th instant he says: "There is so much that I might write about that I decide to be very brief. If there is any point that you want information about, let me know and I will try to look it up. The massacre here of Tuesday last and the days following resulted in about 1,200 Armenians killed, and perhaps 10 Turks. The Armenians made no resistance whatever. There is no doubt in my mind that the massacre was planned and carried out by the Turks with the consent of the authorities. The soldiers did a large portion of the killing and looting. Each day, since the 12th, there have been a few houses looted and a few Armenians killed. After the Turks had had their own way for twenty-four hours the Government made a show of establishing order. It appears that the Government smashed some Turkish shops to show that the rioters were Armenians. We are well guarded. Guards will be required for a long time.

"A renewal of the massacre is anticipated in a few days. It is stated semi-officially that on the 21st troops will arrive from Erzinghian, and then the Government will demand that the Armenians give up 4,000 rifles. Failing to get them the Government will finish the remaining Armenians. The Armenians have not many arms to give up, and the Government will not be satisfied or convinced if they give up everything. The outlook is very dark. I hope the Powers will get around to action before it is too late. I have it on pretty good authority that the Kaimakam of Gurun telegraphed to the Vali, saying in effect, 'You may be assured that there are no Armenians left in Gurun.' Kurapapaks and Hamidiehs stripped the Armenians of Oolash and turned them out of their village. They came to Sivas, but were not admitted, and are lying in the snow about 2 miles from the city. Zara is reported pillaged and the Armenians killed. The same for many villages. Serious affairs are reported at Marsovan and Amassia, but I have no details."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 737.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 906.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 7, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting on the Redif battalions in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 737.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, November 30, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to annex herewith, in a tabular form, the strength and disposition of the Redif battalions in the Trebizond Vilayet.

It will be seen that there are now eighteen battalions, an effective force of 10,317 men. This is more than adequate for any possible emergency, and seven battalions, therefore, from the districts of Lazistan, Gumushkaneh and Samsoun are under marching orders for Kerahissar and Amassia, with Major-General Salih Pasha, President of the Court-martial, in command.

In addition to the Redif battalions, formed of Mustaphuz, there are two of Nizams, one at Arkhavi, on the Russian frontier, and of the other, half at Trebizond and half at Rizeh, besides five companies of gunners, three of which are located here and two at Samsoun.

The Reserves at Trebizond are stationed with gendarmes in twenty-one guard-houses throughout the town. The patrol service is conducted with great regularity, each squad of soldiers being headed by a police officer and a gendarme. The majority of the men are natives of the place, well equipped, apparently content, and hitherto blamelessly steady. They seem to take an interest, and no little pride, in the maintenance of public order and security.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Redif Battalions in the Trebizond Vilayet.

District.	Station.	Effectives.	
Trebizond	Trebizond	590	
	Maiska	500	
	Benyuk Liman	505	
	Surmeneh	420	
	Ort	425	
	Ghemeleh	700	
	Tirebolí	670	
	Kérassond	700	
	Ordou	700	
			5,210
Gumushkaneh	Gumushkaneh	676	
	Kelkit	550	
			1,226
Lazistan	Rizeh	502	
	Arkhavi	453	
	Mapavri	431	
			1,386
Djanik*	Samsoun	675	
	Vezir	700	
	Canik	580	
	Charshamba	541	
			2,496
	Total	..	10,317

* Bafra Redifs excluded. They belong to 1st, not 4th, Army Corps.

Trebizond, November 30, 1895.

No. 738.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 907.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 7, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 891 of the 3rd December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, reporting the raiding of villages by Kurds and Circassians on the borders of the Angora and Sivas Vilayets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 738.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Angora, December* 3, 1895.

IN continuation of my Confidential despatch to your Excellency of the 29th ultimo, reporting the condition of the country in the neighbourhood of Sharkishla and Ghemerek, in the Sivas Vilayet, I now have the honour to report to your Excellency that, according to a letter just received by me from Caesarea, the Kurdish and Circassian mob referred to in the said despatch as having surrounded Dendil succeeded eventually in raiding the place, and then started for Chat, a village situated on the border of this vilayet.

Upon hearing of this movement the Kaimakám of Uzunlu hurried forward with 150 mounted troops to intercept the passage of the rabble, who, it is said, showed him a written permit authorizing them to rob and pillage. The Kaimakam, however, declared that such a permit was not available for the Angora Vilâyet, and drove them back.

Ghenerek, after the influx of peasants from the adjacent villages, was attacked four times by the Kurds and Circassians, but the people barred the entrance, and managed to keep the enemy at bay until troops came to their relief from Cæsarea.

My correspondent further states that in the Circassian settlements between Cæsarea and the frontier not a male between the ages of 16 and 60 years is to be seen. All the able-bodied men have trooped off, some towards Yuzgat, but the majority to Cæsarea, "to be ready for booty."

I was assured to-day by an acquaintance who is usually correctly informed that two villages on this side of the Sivas boundary have been sacked, and that the greater part of the inhabitants, amounting in all to 1,500 souls, have been massacred. This report, however, is not yet confirmed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 739.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 908.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 8, 1895.*

I HAVE made several attempts to induce my colleagues to consider whether some steps might not be taken by the Powers to put an end to the bloodshed which still continues in many parts of Asia Minor.

The reports which have been forwarded to your Lordship through this Embassy tell a fearful tale of butchery, and though massacres on a large scale are of less frequent occurrence than they were a few weeks ago, the Christian population is still exposed to great danger from the Kurds, who kill and plunder far and wide.

There can, I think, be no doubt that the massacres were planned in Constantinople, and were carried on with the connivance and assistance of the authorities.

The Sultan himself has stated that the Armenian question must be settled, not by reforms, but by blood. It is proved by eye-witnesses that the Turkish soldiers took an active part in the massacres in Erzeroum, Trebizond, and many other places, and the fact that foreign subjects and their houses were spared shows that the attacks were organized, and that orders must have been given to single out the Armenian subjects of the Sultan.

No punishment has been inflicted on any of the officials who are responsible for the horrors that have taken place.

In only a very few cases has the property plundered from the Armenians been restored.

Countless villages have been burnt and pillaged, and the loss of life in the country districts must be enormous. In the absence of any reliable information I hesitate to give figures, but it is probable that at least 30,000 people have perished.

It seems incredible that Europe should remain indifferent to these atrocious crimes, that no steps should be taken to arrest their continuance, to inquire into the truth of the reports which have been circulated here, or to obtain the punishment of the aiders and abetters in the massacres.

The accusation against the Armenians of having provoked the outbreaks appears to rest upon very slight foundations, and the similarity of the terms in which it has been repeated from every place where disturbances have occurred, make it clear that a "mot d'ordre" was given from head-quarters to lay the blame upon them. The story of the attack upon the mosque in Bitlis, which was utterly improbable in a place where the Mussulmans are so greatly superior in number to the Christians, has been authoritatively contradicted. Only in the mountainous districts of the Vilayet of Aleppo can it be stated with any truth that the Armenians have taken the offensive. At Zeitoun there is no doubt a genuine insurrection, and the slaughter which it may be feared will soon take place there may to a certain extent be justified by the attitude of the population, who are well supplied with arms and appear to be determined to offer a stubborn resistance.

My Austrian and Italian colleagues are strongly impressed by the events of which the Anatolian provinces have been the scene, and we have agreed to bring the subject under discussion at the meeting of Ambassadors which will take place to-day, and to do our best to arrive at some conclusion which can be communicated to the Governments as a joint recommendation from the Ambassadors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 740.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 909.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 9, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a communication which I, in common with the other Embassies, have received from the Armenian Patriarch, stating that the Patriarchate has no information respecting a rumoured demonstration of Armenians at Constantinople, disclaiming all responsibility for such a demonstration, and requesting that the influence of Her Majesty's Embassy may be directed towards preventing the recurrence of the unhappy events which followed the last demonstration.

In acknowledging the receipt of the Patriarch's communication I have informed his Beatitude that the influence of Her Majesty's Embassy is unceasingly exerted for the object he mentions.

The letter will be considered at the next meeting of Ambassadors, which will take place to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 740.

The Armenian Patriarch to Sir P. Currie.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 25 Novembre (7 Décembre), 1895.*

J'AI nous a été fait part d'un bruit parvenu aux Ambassades d'après lequel les Arméniens prépareraient une manifestation à Constantinople, et il nous a été demandé de faire ce qui serait nécessaire pour la prévenir.

Considérant d'une part qu'avant les incidents du 18 (30) Septembre, une recommandation semblable nous a été faite par la Sublime Porte et que sans tenir compte de notre réponse, on a cherché à faire retomber sur nous les responsabilités, de l'autre, que ces incidents ont servi de raison aux horribles massacres accompagnés de pillage et d'incendie qui se continuent encore dans les provinces, nous regardons comme le devoir sacré de notre conscience et de notre mission de prier votre Excellence qu'elle veuille bien considérer que sauf les rumeurs en question, nous n'avons aucune information touchant les préparations d'une manifestation quelconque, ni ses auteurs, et si malheureusement le bruit communiqué est fondé, nous exprimons le regret que nos moyens seuls, purement moraux, ne suffisent nullement, eu égard surtout aux douloureuses conjonctures actuelles, à amener le résultat désiré.

Il incombe aux autorités de remplir leur devoir avec la prudence et la sagesse nécessaires pour qu'il ne se produise rien de contraire à l'ordre et que, par-dessus tout, les désastres qui ont frappé la nation ne se renouvellent pas.

Pour nous, nous implorons de votre Excellence la grâce d'user de sa haute et tutélaire influence pour prévenir le retour de nouveaux malheurs.

Invoquant des bénédictions, &c.

Le Patriarche des Arméniens de Turquie,
(Signé) MADTEOS.

No. 741.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 910.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 10, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 601 of the 18th September, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah respecting the robberies on the Mecca road.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 741.

Acting Consul Alban to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Jeddah, October 29, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th August, I have the honour to state that between the 13th and 16th instant three robberies of caravans by Bedouins of the Aoof sub-division of the Harb tribe, whose leader is Abu Nab, a well-known marauder, took place. The caravans, which consisted of ten, eighteen, and thirty-two camels respectively, were plundered, the camels being carried off by the robbers. This time, however, the authorities showed more energy, and on the occasion of the third robbery the "Bija," or military camel corps, pursued the marauders, upon whom they are said to have fired, wounding one man. The robbers then abandoned the camels and fled. Since then no more robberies have occurred.

I am informed that on the 21st instant two Shereefs arrived here from Mecca. They were bearers of a letter from the Grand Shereef to Omar Nassif, his agent here. It is said that the letter contained orders for the arrest and imprisonment of any Bedouins belonging to the tribes between Mecca and Taïf who might be found here. They met Omar Nassif on the Mecca road, and obtained from him a letter to his brother here. It is supposed that this step has reference to the frequent robberies which occurred some while ago on the road between Mecca and Taïf.

A number of Bedouins of the Oteyba tribe have been arrested in Mecca, and I now hear that some of the same tribe have been arrested and imprisoned here. It is also stated that some of the Monbbadi sub-tribe of the Beni Harb, who resort to Jeddah for the purpose of buying provisions, have been imprisoned here. I am unable as yet to explain the cause of this action, which is not thought to have any connection with the outrage on the Consuls.

With reference to my despatch of the 29th August, I have the honour to state that on the 7th August, after pressure, the Vali informed me that the inquiry into the robbery at Kettana, made on the spot by a Binbashi whom he had sent from Mecca for that purpose, showed that the robbery took place at some distance from the fort; that the victims did not go to the fort, but to a café; and that on the news being brought to the fort the troops went out at once and remained out the whole night in search of the robbers. The evidence taken seems to have been almost entirely that of the soldiers and officers concerned.

Koonji himself was obliged to leave for India shortly after the robbery, but the evidence of the natives who were robbed does not appear to have been taken.

As I anticipated, the inquiry was a mere farce, but the representations made on the subject of the conduct of the troops have had a good effect, as they are now showing much more energy, and have orders to fire, if necessary, on the robbers.

The Vali, in his letter above referred to, stated that Koonji must prove before the Kaïmakam that he really possessed the property which he claims to have lost. Koonji having left the country, I produced other witnesses who had seen the property in question in his possession. The Kaïmakam preferred that the Temiz Court here should take the evidence of the witnesses and report to him; and I have accepted this proposal, as I have reason to believe that it will lead to a satisfactory result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 742.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 911. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 10, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 880 of the 29th November, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, reporting on the attitude of the Lebanon Druses during the disturbances in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 742.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir,

Beyrout, November 20, 1895.

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch of the 20th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith a translation of a letter addressed by Nessib Bey Jumblat to the Religious Head of the Druses, and of the latter's reply, relating to the disturbances in the Hauran.

These documents were secretly handed to me by Nessib Bey as a proof that he had followed my counsels and employed his powerful influence to dissuade the Lebanon Druses from making common cause with their kinsmen of the Hauran.

His letter to the Sheikh-el-Akkal was published throughout the Druse district, and has had the desired effect.

His Excellency Nasum Pasha, who returned here lately for the winter season, and the Governor-General of Beyrout, both expressed to me their high appreciation of Nessib Bey's conduct on the occasion.

I may also state that the attitude of the Chiefs has shown the authorities that those Druses who are known for their British sympathies are loyal, and using their best endeavours to keep the peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 742.

Nessib Bey Jumblat to the Religious Head of the Druses.

(Translation.)
Sir,

October 28 (November 9), 1895.

I WAS very sorry to hear that certain bad characters among the Druses of the Hauran had committed acts of aggression contrary to the Imperial will and to the principles on which the Druses were brought up, viz., obedience and submission to our governors, who know our interests better than we do, so that it is incumbent upon every Druse who has a grain of honour to disapprove the deeds of those bad characters who, by their disorderly conduct, have darkened the face of humanity.

I have therefore to ask you, in your quality of Religious Head of the Druses, to instruct every member of your community residing in your district to keep quiet, and to repudiate openly the deeds of the said evil-doers, and I beg you to add that we are far from having anything to do with them, or with those who approve of their acts, which lead to complete ruin.

Our moral and material interests make it the duty of every Druse to devote his money and his life to the service of the Imperial Government, to whom we owe our existence, and by whose favours we are continually overwhelmed.

I believe that the majority of our community there who foresee the consequences of acts disapprove of the bad behaviour of those evil and lawless characters, and you and all the Druses should join me in forming the warmest wishes day and night for the glory, victory, and prosperity of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan and his Government.

(Signed) NESSIB.

Inclosure 3 in No. 742.

The Religious Head of the Druses to Nessib Bey Jumblat.

(Translation.)

November 12, 1895.

Excellency,

WITH due respect and our warmest wishes that you may enjoy a long life, I beg to state that I have had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter, in which you express the pain you felt on learning that some bad characters among the Druses of the Hauran had committed acts of aggression contrary to the Imperial desire, and also to the principles on which we were brought up, viz., obedience and submission to our governors, who know our interests better than we do, and you order me, therefore, to give the necessary advice to all the Druses in this district to repudiate the deeds of those aggressors who have committed acts contrary to law and honour, and you direct me to show them that the moral and material interests of the Druses make it the duty of every one amongst them to devote his money and his life to the service of the Imperial Government.

In accordance with your orders, I shall make it clear to all the Druses in these parts that they must keep quiet and obey the orders of the Imperial Government, which has ever bestowed great favours upon us. I am sure that the Notables and the law-abiding men amongst the Druses, whether here or in the Hauran, disapprove the ideas of those bad and lawless characters.

We hope that our Imperial Government will not allow the innocent to suffer for the crime of the guilty.

We are sure that all the Druses, wherever they may be, will sacrifice their blood for the Imperial Government like the troops that are under arms and serving without pay.

Begging you to communicate this to the proper quarter, we close our present statement by asking the Almighty to give to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan a life long, prosperous, and glorious.

(Signed) MOHAMMED TALIA.

No. 743.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 913.)

Constantinople, December 10, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of two private letters which have been communicated to me by Mr. Consul-General Blunt, and which were received by a friend of his from his relations at Amassia, furnishing some information on the massacres in that district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 743.

Private Letter communicated to Consul-General Blunt.

Mon cher ——, *Amasia, le* 11 (23) *Novembre*, 1895.

DEUX mots à la hâte pour vous informer que nous sommes bien, &c. Tout est ruine et désolation. Merzifin, Amasia, Hafza sont ruinés.

A Merzifin, 120 tués, à Amasia, 50, et à Hafza, 10. Toutes les boutiques sont dévalisées.

Je me suis trouvé à Hafza pendant le massacre, et par ordre supérieur j'ai adressé aux autorités d'ici un rapport dont je vous enverrai copie prochainement. A Amasia et à Merzifin ils ont eu lieu le 3 (15) courant, et à Hafza le 4 (16) et le 5 (17).

(Signé) ——.

Inclosure 2 in No. 743.

Private Letter communicated to Consul-General Blunt.

Mon cher Émile, *Amasia, le* 11 (23) *Novembre*, 1895.

A LA hâte deux mots, car la poste est arrivée et part sans avoir été avisée.

Nous sommes encore sous le coup de la grande frayeur; il y a eu soulèvement Vendredi dernier. Tous les Turcs, villageois et autres, se sont rués sur les Chrétiens. Il y a eu des abominations; une cinquantaine d'Arméniens ont été assommés, massacrés, dans les quartiers mêmes; tous les magasins ont été dévalisés et démolis.

Nous nous trouvions à table, Anaïs et moi, quand on vient nous dire que les Turcs s'acheminent dans notre quartier. Je n'ai eu que le temps (deux minutes) d'envoyer prendre Millie à l'école. Au même instant tous les Arméniens se réfugient chez nous, les uns plus morts que vivants. On entend des cris sinistres, des détonations, des gémissements. Mon mari se trouvait à Havza en tournée. Juge de notre frayeur. Grâce à Dieu, on n'est pas entré dans les maisons; sinon, nous ne serions plus en vie à l'heure qu'il est. Figure-toi mon chagrin; je n'avais aucune nouvelle d'Antoine. Il devait rentrer le Dimanche, et ce n'est que Lundi qu'il a pu revenir accompagné d'un Molla, et lui la main sur son revolver. Plus de deux mille personnes étaient campées dans le chemin, et personne n'a été épargné. Enfin, que dirai-je? Nous ne sommes pas encore bien rassurés, et nous sommes prêts à fuir chez les Jésuites, par des parois de mur que nous avons pratiquées, à la moindre alerte. Toutes ces émotions m'ont rendu assez souffrante dans mon état, et c'est à peine si je puis marcher.

Je n'ai que le temps de vous embrasser, vous tous, pour nous tous.

(Signé) ——.

P.S.—La prochaine poste je te dirai tous les détails sans noms sous une enveloppe officielle. Nous sommes encore très effrayées. Que nous arrivera-t-il mon Dieu! A Merzifin 100 personnes de tuées; à Sivas massacre général; à Diarbékir idem, à Malatia, &c.

No. 744.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 914.)

Constantinople, December 10, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, reporting the return to that place of the missionaries charged with the relief operations in the Sasun district.

I beg leave to call your Lordship's attention to the good work which has been done in relieving the necessities of the 5,000 destitute inhabitants of Sasun and Talori.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging the valuable services rendered by Dr. Reynolds, Mr. Cole, and their assistants, and by Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson.

Mr. Hampson calls attention to the danger from Kurdish raids on the reconstituted villages unless speedy measures are taken for their protection. I am bringing

this danger to the notice of the Palace and the Porte, and I shall insist in peremptory terms on instructions being sent for the adoption of preventive measures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 744.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Mush, November 11, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the missionaries have come down from Susun, their presence there being no longer necessary for the distribution of relief. Dr. Reynolds will leave Mush as soon as his health permits for his home in Van; and Mr. Cole will accompany him as far as Bitlis to visit his family, returning shortly to Mush, whence he will continue to superintend the further distribution. I have made all possible provision for their safe-conduct.

They state that sufficient houses are now completed in each village to shelter the people during the winter; that necessary clothing and bedding has been distributed, or is on the way; that, if the roads are not blocked by snow, they hope that, in three weeks' time, sufficient grain will be in the hands of the villagers to support them with care, until the spring; and that the further purchase of cattle and sheep, as far as funds will permit, can best be carried out by the villagers themselves, who will come to Mush and receive the sums allotted for this purpose from Mr. Cole. Their assistants will remain in Susun a few weeks longer to conclude the distribution of grain.

Thus this work of humanity is successfully brought to such a point that the 5,000 destitute inhabitants of Susun and Talori can exist—though with some hardship—until such time as they will be able, it is hoped, again to provide for themselves.

Of the immense labour required to attain this result in such a short time, the Relief Committee will be able to judge when they receive the detailed reports and accounts of the missionaries.

But the Kurds are now threatening to undo all that has been achieved. They have already pillaged Hitenk, Engusnak, and other villages; and are menacing all parts of the relieved districts. They have declared that they will destroy all houses built with English money. This danger I foresaw, and repeatedly brought to your notice and to that of Her Majesty's Embassy, but no effective measures to prevent it have as yet been taken by the authorities. I have again made urgent representations on the subject to the Mutessarif, and he has promised to send soldiers to Sasun at once; but Talori is in the Sandjak of Guendj. Unless prompt measures are taken all the results of the relief work will be annihilated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

P.S.—I had the honour to telegraph the last paragraph of this despatch to Her Majesty's Embassy to-day.

C. S. H.

No. 745.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 916.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 10, 1895.

AS I had the honour to mention to your Lordship in my despatch No. 884 A of the 29th ultimo respecting my audience of the Sultan, I availed myself of the opportunity to speak to His Majesty on the subject of the alleged forcible conversions to Islam which were taking place in the Anatolian provinces, and His Majesty expressed his disapproval of any such proceedings, and begged me, if possible, to supply him with further information on the subject.

I accordingly telegraphed to Her Majesty's Consular Representatives at Erzeroum and Van requesting them to forward to me full details of any cases of forced conversions which might have come to their knowledge.

From Mr. Cumberbatch's reply it appears that there were several instances of forced conversion to Islam in four villages in the Terjan district, in the Vilayet of Erzeroum, but that the ceremony of circumcision was enforced only in Vartig.

A few conversions took place at two or three other villages in the same district, one being the case of an Armenian priest.

In the Baiburt district instances are reported, but no details can be obtained. In some of these cases the Armenians themselves offered to apostatize in order to save their lives and property, in others they have been driven to profess Mahommedanism through fear. It is impossible to state how many were killed for refusing to change their faith.

The Vali has sent instructions to the Governors of the districts in question not to recognize these conversions, and at Poulk, where the church has been used as a mosque, the Vali has sent orders that this shall no longer be done.

Mr. Cumberbatch reports that great pressure was brought to bear on the Armenians in the town and district of Kharput, and that many were killed for refusing to utter the necessary formula. The only place from which circumcision is reported in that vilayet is Pertik, where it is said that the whole male population has had to submit to it.

Mr. Hallward, on the other hand, reports that he does not know of any forced conversions in the Vilayet of Van, but that he hears from the Armenian Bishop and other sources that in the district of Khizan large numbers of Armenians became Mussulmans in order to save their lives.

I communicated the information contained in Mr. Cumberbatch's telegram to the Sultan through His Majesty's First Secretary, and I have, in reply, received a message from His Majesty to the effect that he did not approve of persons who changed their religion, and that these proceedings were consequently much deprecated by him, and that he would instruct Saadeddin Pasha to inquire into the cases, and not to recognize the validity of such conversions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 746.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 917.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 10, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, reporting the movements of troops in that Mutessarilik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 746.

Consul Dickson to Sir P. Currie.

Sir,

Jerusalem, November 27, 1895.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 25th instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that a battalion of regular troops and another of Redifs left Jerusalem on the 23rd instant for the Hauran viâ Nablous. They were accompanied for a short distance out of the town by almost the entire Mahommedan population, as well as by their friends and relatives from the outlying villages, but I am happy to state that their departure was unattended by any hostile demonstration towards the native Christians or Europeans.

Three battalions of Redifs having recently left Jaffa for the same destination, and one from here, as above stated, there remain four under arms out of the eight which have been called out. Of these, one battalion will be stationed in Jerusalem and the neighbourhood, instead of the regular troops which have left, and another will be placed

in garrison at Jaffa, Gaza, and the surrounding districts. The other two battalions which are still here will, as soon as they are provided with proper clothing, be dispatched to the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 747.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 918.) *Pera, December 10, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the ex-Grand Vizier Saïd Pasha, generally known as "Kutchuk" (little) Saïd, came to the Embassy on the afternoon of the 4th instant and asked for my protection.

I at once informed him that I felt highly honoured by receiving him as a guest.

Saïd Pasha then gave me the following account of the circumstances which had led him to take this step.

Before the fall of Djevad Pasha, Saïd Pasha, who had remained for nearly two years virtually a prisoner in his house at Nichantash, was on several occasions summoned to the Palace by the Sultan and consulted as to the Armenian reform proposals. He recommended the Sultan to accept them on the ground that they did not constitute an innovation, but were founded on the existing laws of the Empire, that they were consistent with justice, and that their adoption would be a benefit to His Majesty and to his country.

The Sultan then made him several offers of the Grand Vizirate, which he declined on the ground of ill-health. At length His Majesty summoned him to the Palace, where the Sheikh-ul-Islam was in attendance, and ordered him to go at once to the Porte and take possession of his office. He had then no alternative but to accept, although he protested that his health was no longer equal to the burden.

During the three months and a-half that he filled the office of Grand Vizier he did his utmost to discharge his duties with fidelity and devotion.

He continued to recommend the Sultan to accept the proposals of the Powers in regard to the Armenian provinces. Before the Armenian demonstration of the 30th September he ordered the Minister for War to station a battalion of troops in Stamboul in order to prevent any disturbances; the Sultan, however, revoked this order, and said that guards would be sufficient. Even these guards were not sent, and the absence of a military force resulted in the disastrous consequences which followed.

After Saïd Pasha's dismissal, he remained quietly in his own house, and knowing that he had been accused on the one hand of being an Armenian, and on the other of having favoured the fanatical party among the Turks, he abstained from presenting himself at the Palace. The Sultan took exception to this, and after a few weeks had elapsed he went to the Palace to pay his respects to His Majesty. The Sultan then proposed that he should again become Grand Vizier. He declined, alleging that if in office he could only follow the same course which Kiamil Pasha was taking.

The offer was repeated several times, but he adhered to his refusal. The Sultan then proposed that he should take up his abode in the Palace and act as His Majesty's Adviser; he was told that authority would be given him superior to that of the Grand Vizier, and that he would be authorized to decide by a simple note all questions except those relating to politics, upon which he would be expected to consult with the Sultan. He pointed out that such an office would be contrary to the laws and institutions of the Ottoman Empire, and declined to assume the responsibility of it.

The Sultan then sent Izzet Bey to inform him that an apartment had been prepared for him in a kiosk in the Palace grounds (the same in which Midhat Pasha was confined), and that he was to reside there and be ready at all hours of the day and night to give advice to His Majesty. He replied that his advice would always be at His Majesty's service, but that he must decline to leave his house, which is within easy reach of the Palace, and where he would be accessible at all times.

On the 6th instant, Izzet Bey came again, and in peremptory terms insisted upon his taking up his abode in the kiosk, suggesting that if he could not go there permanently, he should, at any rate, do so for five or six days.

This strange persistence on the part of the Sultan coupled with rumours which had reached him from private sources, aroused his fears, and being unable in his weak state of health to bear any longer the persecution and the intrigues of the Sultan's *entourage*, to

which he was subjected, he determined, in order to preserve his personal liberty, to take the step of placing himself under the protection of the British Embassy.

His anxiety was increased by the treatment to which Kiamil Pasha (of whom he speaks with great respect) was subjected at the time of his fall. His house was surrounded by guards, eunuchs from the Palace were sent into his harem, and had it not been for the intervention of the Ambassadors, he would probably have lost his life.

Shortly after his arrival Saïd Pasha addressed a letter to the Grand Vizier, informing him of the step he had taken, and of the motives which had prompted it.

At a late hour of the night the Foreign Minister and the President of the Council came to see him, and strongly urged him to return to his home, pointing out the disastrous effects to himself and his family if he persisted. He, however, declined to follow their advice. On the following day the same Ministers called upon the foreign Ambassadors, and requested them to advise Saïd Pasha to leave the British Embassy. They were authorized to give assurances on the part of the Sultan of his continued good-will towards Saïd Pasha, and to promise in the name of His Majesty that every guarantee would be given to him for his security and full liberty. This message was communicated to Saïd Pasha by the Austrian Ambassador as "doyen," in the name of his colleagues, on the 6th instant, but without any advice being given on their part. Saïd Pasha still maintained his resolution to go abroad, and I inclose copy of a note which, at his request, I addressed to my Austrian colleague on the 7th instant.

Meanwhile emissaries from the Palace constantly visited the ex-Grand Vizier. Tahsin Bey, the Sultan's First Secretary, took the principal part, and was accompanied either by the Foreign Minister, Ismet, or Raghib Bey. Saïd Pasha while insisting on his right to travel, endeavoured to obtain guarantees for his security and safety in the event of his returning home. The Sultan began by promising everything, but, according to his wont, gradually reduced the offers he had made.

On the 6th instant he sent a Mollah, named Sheikh Essad, who was employed to communicate with Arabi Pasha during the rebellion in Egypt.

This Sheikh brought with him a copy of the Koran, and stated that he was commissioned by the Sultan to repeat in Saïd Pasha's presence an oath which His Majesty had taken on the sacred book after making the usual ablutions, and turning his face to the Kaaba.

The oath was to the effect that the Sultan was in no way annoyed with Saïd Pasha for the step he had taken, and that he would not be molested for it. Saïd Pasha, who feared that if he showed distrust of the Caliph's oath he would fall under the penalties of the religious law, stated that it was unnecessary, as he was satisfied with the assurances given by His Majesty.

He then proposed that the First Secretary of the Sultan should write a letter to the British Ambassador, or to all the Ambassadors, communicating an Imperial Iradé guaranteeing his liberty and security, and promising that he should not be appointed to any office without his consent.

This proposal was submitted to the Sultan, but instead of the asked-for letter there came one of an entirely different character, making no reference to the Ambassadors, blaming severely Saïd's conduct, and adding covert threats of the condemnation which his action would meet from the Ulemah.

This reference to the religious aspect of the question appeared to have a very serious effect on the ex-Grand Vizier.

He evidently feared that he might be cited before a Tribunal of the Ulemah, and from that moment he showed an evident determination to accept such terms as he could obtain and to return home. Although he privately expressed the utmost distrust of the Sultan, he evidently did not feel himself strong enough to cope with him. He wrote a long reply to the letter, justifying his conduct, but stating his readiness to return.

The assurances which he eventually received in writing, signed by the First Secretary of the Sultan, were to the following effect:—

"There is no need to repeat the observations with regard to your having gone to a foreign Embassy without any cause whatsoever. The favour which His Imperial Majesty has shown to you for the last twenty years, proved by acts, is known to all. The safety and comfort of your family is secured. You should therefore at once proceed to your house, where you will dwell with all freedom, personal liberty, and comfort. No proposals shall be made to you of any post, either in the capital or in the provinces, and you may devote your days to prayers for the life of the Sultan.

"Further, although nothing has been left undone for your maintenance, nor will be in future, yet the Minister of Finance has been ordered to pay you a monthly pension of 10,000 piastres.

"It would not be acceptable to the Caliph that a distinguished Vizier like you should pass the rest of his life in a foreign country, and you should therefore abandon this idea and at once go home. This Imperial advice is prompted by the fatherly benevolence shown towards you for twenty years past, and still maintained by the Sultan, and you should at once, therefore, yield to these Imperial commands."

Said Pasha remained the whole of yesterday in a painful state of doubt and hesitation as to the course he should pursue.

General von der Goltz, who called here to take leave, had an interview with him, and strongly advised him not to trust himself to the tender mercies of the Sultan. For a time he was inclined to accept this advice, and his mind was not finally made up until the evening, when he dictated the letter to me, of which a copy is inclosed.

He returned to his house in my carriage, accompanied by Mr. Block, at 7·30 P.M.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 747.

Sir P. Currie to Baron Calice.

Le 7 Décembre, 1895.

Mon cher Collègue,

J'AI montré à Saïd Pacha l'instruction que vous avez donnée à votre Drogman, et dont vous m'avez envoyé une copie. Son Altesse me charge de vous exprimer ainsi qu'aux autres Ambassadeurs ses remercîments chaleureux, et de vous informer que ce document est un exposé exact de ses vues.

Hier au soir il a reçu la visite du Cheik Ahmed Essad et de Raghib Bey. Mr. Block, Premier Drogman de l'Ambassade, a assisté à l'entrevue. Le Cheik était chargé de prêter serment sur le Coran que Sa Majesté Impériale n'était pas offensée par la conduite de Saïd Pacha en s'installant à cette Ambassade, qu'elle avait pleine confiance en lui, et croyait à sa fidélité, et qu'elle n'avait aucune mauvaise intention à son égard.

Saïd Pacha, tout en exprimant ses remercîments au Sultan, et sa pleine confiance dans les assurances déjà reçues de la part de Sa Majesté Impériale, assurances qui n'avaient nullement besoin d'être confirmées par un serment, a informé Raghib Bey qu'il était très désireux d'aller à l'étranger avec sa famille et pour sa santé et pour d'autres raisons. Il désirait inspirer à Sa Majesté la certitude de son désintéressement, en ce qui concerne le Grand Vizirat ou les autres fonctions extraordinaires qui lui ont été proposées.

C'est pourquoi il s'est décidé de faire la réponse suivante: Si, conformément aux propositions qui lui avaient été transmises de la part de Sa Majesté Impériale par l'entremise de Tahsin Bey et de Raghib Bey une lettre était adressée soit à l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, soit à tous les Ambassadeurs, communiquant un Iradé Impérial par lequel seraient garanties sa liberté et sécurité personnelle avec celle de sa famille dans sa propre maison, et le paiement de sa pension, en ajoutant qu'il ne serait pas nommé sans son consentement à aucune fonction ni à Constantinople ni en province, il serait prêt à donner à cette lettre toute son attention.

Depuis la visite de Raghib Bey Saïd Pacha n'a reçu aucune communication du Palais. Il me prie d'exprimer aux Ambassadeurs par l'entremise de votre Excellence son vif espoir que dans le cas où il ne recevrait pas les assurances écrites déjà offertes par Sa Majesté mentionnées ci-dessus, ils donneront leur appui à son désir légitime de partir pour l'étranger avec sa famille.

Il prie également les Ambassadeurs de vouloir bien faire des représentations au sujet de la surveillance illégale à laquelle est assujettie sa famille, comme j'ai eu l'honneur de faire savoir à votre Excellence par mon Mémorandum d'hier.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) P. CURRIE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 747.

Saïd Pasha to Sir P. Currie.

Chère Excellence, *Ambassade d'Angleterre, le 9 Décembre*, 1895.

MERCREDI le 4 Décembre j'ai été reçu à l'Ambassade comme hôte de l'Ambassadeur. A la suite de cette réception gracieuse j'ai dit à votre Excellence que j'avais passé au service de mon pays quarante-trois ans, et, surtout dans les derniers vingt ans, la plupart de ce temps a été passé dans les occupations les plus importantes et fatigantes. Cinq fois j'ai été appelé au Grand Vizirat; ma santé en a été épuisée, et ne me permet plus de supporter le fardeau de ce poste que Sa Majesté Impériale vient de me proposer encore une fois. Après, Sa Majesté Impériale m'a proposé un poste extraordinaire dans le Palais Impérial pour diriger les hautes affaires de l'État, mais malheureusement ma santé ne me permet pas de l'accepter, et surtout la responsabilité d'un emploi pareil est évidente. Malgré ma confiance et mon respect envers mon Souverain je suis fatigué des intrigues. Le but de mon arrivée à l'Ambassade était de pouvoir échapper à ces embarras et de me rendre sans difficulté à l'étranger avec ma famille. J'ai pensé que je ne passerais qu'une nuit à l'Ambassade et en arrivant j'ai écrit immédiatement au Grand Vizier pour lui exprimer mon désir.

J'espérais que cette demande naturelle serait favorablement accueillie mais le soir même Sa Majesté Impériale a envoyé auprès de votre Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et le Président du Conseil, qui m'ont déclaré que je continuais à jouir des faveurs de Sa Majesté Impériale et qu'elle avait une pleine confiance en ma fidélité envers elle et son Empire. Le lendemain, Sa Majesté a fait donner les mêmes assurances aux autres Ambassadeurs par l'entremise des mêmes Ministres, en exprimant le désir de me voir abandonner l'intention d'aller à l'étranger.

Quoique je sois reconnaissant à Sa Majesté, comme je l'ai déclaré à votre Excellence et au Baron de Calice, Doyen des Ambassadeurs, qui s'est gracieusement rendu auprès de moi de la part de ses collègues, j'ai été obligé de prendre en considération les intrigues insupportables.

Par conséquent j'ai dû répéter ma prière pour aller à l'étranger et Sa Majesté par l'entremise de ses Chambellans et du Premier Secrétaire et de ses Ministres a bien voulu manifester treize fois son désir que j'abandonne cette intention. En dehors de cela elle a aussi donné des assurances par écrit.

C'est pour cette cause que j'ai dû rester cinq jours à l'Ambassade malgré que mon intention ne fût que d'y passer une nuit. Mais d'un côté ma demande n'a pas réussie et de l'autre j'ai été obligé de témoigner mon appréciation des sentiments et des assurances de mon Souverain.

Aujourd'hui je rentre à ma maison. Je n'oublierai jamais l'aimable hospitalité qui m'a été prodiguée à moi et à mon petit garçon, et de la part de votre Excellence et de celle de Lady Currie.

C'est avec le cœur plein de reconnaissance que je quitte votre Excellence et je la prie d'agréer, &c.

(Signé) SAID.

No. 748.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 919.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 11, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 918 of the 10th December, I have the honour to inclose herewith Reports by Mr. Eliot and Mr. Block of the interviews which took place between Saïd Pasha and the various officials sent by the Sultan to induce his Highness to leave Her Majesty's Embassy.

These Reports give an interesting picture of what actually took place at these interviews and make it, I think, plain that Saïd Pasha yielded to the religious influence brought to bear on him. He had no hesitation in refusing to obey the wishes expressed by the Sultan in his character of a temporal Sovereign, but felt obliged to perform what the Caliph declared to be his duty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 748.

Memorandum.

December 6, 7 P.M.—A card was sent in, stating that Ismet Bey, Garde-robe of the Sultan, together with Sheikh Ahmed Essad, the "Ferashet Vekili" (representative of the Tomb of the Prophet and high dignitary of the Kaaba), desired, in accordance with the instructions of the Sultan, to see Said Pasha. Raghib Bey came with them unannounced.

Said Pasha observed that the Sultan now evidently wished to appeal to the religious side of the question; that he had not much confidence in Sheikh Ahmed Essad (who had been sent by the Sultan to Egypt in order to negotiate with Arabi) and his Highness hoped by seeing Raghib Bey alone first to be able to make a proposition to him which would render the Sheikh's intervention unnecessary. Said Pasha accordingly saw Raghib Bey alone, who, after much repetition of the Sultan's good-will and confidence with respect to Said Pasha, strongly urged his Highness, on behalf of the Sultan, to return to his house. He stated that the Sultan, in order to give his Highness complete confidence in His Majesty's assurances, had called Sheikh Ahmed Essad to the Imperial apartments and after having performed the requisite ablutions himself and caused the Sheikh to do so likewise, had turned towards the Kaaba and on the Koran had sworn that His Majesty was not vexed at Said Pasha's having come to the Embassy, that he had full confidence in him and believed in his fidelity and loyalty, and that he harboured no evil intentions towards him; the Sultan then had caused the Sheikh to take the oath, and as Khalif had delegated him, a high religious functionary, to proceed to the Embassy with the Koran and there, in the presence of Said Pasha, to repeat the oath on behalf of the Sultan.

Said Pasha said, that once the Sultan had said that he had every confidence in him, Said Pasha, there was absolutely no necessity for either His Majesty taking an oath or having it repeated by the Sheikh, and that therefore he could not admit of the Sheikh's doing such a thing. Raghib Bey in vain tried to persuade his Highness, and Said Pasha finally said, that although he still desired, for reasons already given, to go to Europe with his family, he would make another proposal, viz., that the First Secretary of the Sultan should write a letter to the British Embassy, or to all the Embassies, communicating an Imperial Irade that he, Said Pasha, would be allowed to remain in his own house with his family; that he should not be worried into taking office against his wish either here or in the provinces, that he should have complete tranquillity and personal liberty, that his pension should be paid, &c. On receipt of such a letter he would be prepared to consider it. This proposal, said Said Pasha, did not emanate from him, but was suggested by His Majesty himself through the First Secretary in a previous visit, and also by Raghib himself on behalf of the Sultan.

Raghib Bey jumped at this idea, thinking no doubt he would have the credit of having arranged the business, and Said dictated to him the form of letter he required.

Ismet Bey and the Sheikh were then called in. Raghib explained to them what had passed and the nature of the proposal of Said Pasha, and said that the taking of the oath by the Sheikh was not now necessary; the Sheikh agreed.

Ahmed Essad then said that His Majesty had told him that he had every confidence in Said's loyalty and devotion, and that he was not at all vexed at Said's coming to the Embassy. As they all left the room the Sheikh said pointedly, before me, that the Sultan was pleased that Said should have come to this Embassy as England was the old ally of Turkey, and that the Sheikh himself was glad to have had the opportunity of entering the Embassy. I replied that the Sheikh's visit was the cause of much pleasure, and I trusted he would convey respectful thanks to the Sultan for his friendly sentiments. Raghib stated on leaving that the letter should be written at once and sent to the Embassy; none came.

On Saturday evening, however, Tahsin Bey, the First Secretary, and the Foreign Minister called at the Embassy and presented a letter written by the former under His Majesty's instructions, addressed to Said, not to the Ambassadors. This letter was not the same as that dictated to Raghib Bey. It was a voluminous document, and contained, as Said told me, many expressions which were to be construed as accusations against him. The fact of Said's having come to the Embassy was severely commented upon, in spite of the asseverations mentioned above.

They then desired Said to return to his house. He declined, saying that the statements made in this letter would require a reply, and he desired till to-morrow to think over it. A message was brought in to the First Secretary, who then offered to withdraw the letter and send another; but Said declined to part with it, and the First Secretary and Tewfik Pasha left, saying they would bring or send another letter in a few hours.

They called at the Embassy in the dead of night, but were not admitted; they also came to my house, but I was in bed. They therefore returned on Sunday at 11 A.M.

They brought another short letter and long messages from the Sultan, which were communicated in a whisper, and Said replied in the same manner (evidently the Sultan had expressed his wish that I should not hear the negotiations as heretofore, otherwise Said Pasha, who throughout, in order to prevent his remarks being falsely interpreted, has desired that what he said could be heard by me, would not have changed his plan).

The present letter was more satisfactory, according to Said Pasha, though it contained a phrase which Said would not accept, viz., that he had taken refuge in the Embassy without cause.

Said stated that as the Sultan, in spite of all that he had repeatedly said, had not yet understood what had happened during the last three weeks, which amply justified his coming to the Embassy, he would now write his story, and send the letter to His Majesty through the First Secretary. This was agreed to.

The First Secretary tried to withdraw the previous night's communication, making light of the accusations contained therein, and attributing the blame of what had passed to Ahmed Izzet's stupidity and excess of zeal; but Said refused to give it up before having answered in writing the charges contained therein.

Both at this and the two former interviews Said complained bitterly of the surveillance and annoyances to which his family were exposed in his absence. The First Secretary and Raghib tried to find some excuse for attributing them to the stupidity of the police, and said that His Majesty was ignorant of what was being done. Said Pasha scoffed at them, and asked if it was possible for an official to do anything whatsoever without the Sultan's approval and sanction.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

December 9, 1895.

Inclosure 2 in No. 748.

Memorandum.

SAID PASHA, President of the Council, and Tewfik Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, called at the Embassy about 2 A.M., 5th December, and requested to see Said Pasha, the ex-Grand Vizier. After obtaining your Excellency's consent they were allowed to do so, and at the ex-Grand Vizier's request I was present.

The President of the Council delivered a message from the Sultan in very formal language.

His Majesty was surprised and annoyed; he could not understand the conduct from one to whom he had shown, and was still showing, so many favours. He was deeply pained at the accusation against himself which that conduct seemed to imply, and also regretted the impression which it would inevitably produce among Mahommedans, an impression which must be unfavourable to Said Pasha. He begged the latter, both as a favour to himself and for his own honour, to return at once before his visit to the Embassy was known. He had urgent need of his advice, and requested him to assist his Sovereign and country in the present difficult crisis by becoming Grand Vizier.

Said Pasha asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether he had any message, and he replied, "The same as the President of the Council." He asked, "Did you receive the message personally or by an intermediary?" The Minister for Foreign Affairs said, "By an intermediary;" but the President of the Council hastily added, "First of all by an intermediary, and then directly from His Majesty."

Said Pasha then said he could best reply to the Imperial message by reading a letter which he had written to the Grand Vizier as soon as he arrived. In this letter he made profuse professions of loyalty, and acknowledged His Majesty's invariable kindness, but said he could no longer support the conduct of His Majesty's *entourage*, and especially of Izzet Bey. His health had broken down under the strain of office, and he was not capable of discharging the high functions which His Majesty graciously offered him. He therefore requested permission to go abroad with his family and reside in whatever country might seem suitable to His Imperial Majesty.

The President of the Council said this was no answer to the Imperial message. The

Sultan offered to Said Pasha the Grand Vizirate; and, if that was distasteful to his Highness, would give him a still higher post, superior to the Sublime Porte. He would reside in a special kiosque in the garden of Yildiz, receive all the reports sent to the Palace by the Grand Vizier, and advise His Majesty as to the action to be taken. The President of the Council added that if Said Pasha had any fears of his personal safety, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and himself were ready to take an oath that he would enjoy complete security.

Said Pasha asked for permission to smoke a cigarette, and did so with much deliberation amidst complete silence.

He then expressed his thanks for the Imperial message and his unalterable loyalty to the Sultan.

The President of the Council interrupted, and said he had no need to make these protestations; His Imperial Majesty was firmly convinced of his fidelity.

Said Pasha said he made these declarations in order to show he had no complaint against His Imperial Master, but he could not say this of the *entourage*. The conduct of Izzet Bey, and the treatment to which high functionaries were exposed at his hands were intolerable.

Here the two Ministers said, "Quite true."

Said Pasha was continuing to explain how his health had broken down owing to his fatiguing duties, and the intrigues of which he was the object, when your Excellency sent for me.

His Highness also came out of the room, saying he would rather not be left alone with the Ministers. Your Excellency hinted to him that, considering the hour, the Conference might be advantageously brought to a close.

We then returned, and Said Pasha began another speech recapitulating the events of the last few weeks. He described how the Sultan was continually asking for his advice without ever accepting it; how he was kept waiting for hours at Yildiz; how he was obliged to receive messages through Izzet Bey; how he had been sent round to the Embassies with messages about the "stationnaires;" and how the Sultan had refused to entertain the suggestions he had ventured to make. Quite suddenly he rose and said: "For these reasons, I can bear it no longer. My health has broken down. I cannot accept His Majesty's gracious offers. I ask for leave to go."

The two Pashas ran in front of him, stood with their backs to the door and spoke to him very excitedly. They apparently threatened him with the consequences for his family if he stayed in the Embassy. I heard the Minister for Foreign Affairs say, "Is the Imperial Iradé to remain in the mud?" (i.e., be neglected); and the President of the Council said, "My dear, you are mad." Said Pasha, however, insisted on leaving the room and went straight up stairs.

At about noon on the 5th December Tahsin Bey, the First Secretary of the Sultan, called on Said Pasha, and was received by his Highness in the presence of Mr. Block. Three-quarters-of-an-hour after leaving Tahsin Bey came back, saying he had been to Yildiz, and had returned with another message. Said Pasha wished to receive him, and I was present during the interview.

Tahsin Bey said that the Sultan swore in the most solemn manner by the heads of his children that Said Pasha need have no fear; he should enjoy perfect liberty and security, live in Yildiz, and hold there the high office already described to His Highness by the President of the Council and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In the conversation which ensued, Said Pasha used much the same arguments as in the previous interview with the two Ministers. He dwelt on his broken health and need for repose; his distrust of the Sultan's *entourage*; the unbearable situation created by forcing high functionaries to submit to the impertinence of Izzet Bey (the First Secretary cordially agreed with this sentiment), and the uselessness of the Sultan's offering Said Pasha any post when he never took his advice. In this connection he reviewed what had happened during his Viziership and later respecting the introduction of reforms in Armenia, and also the incident of the "stationnaires." He said that in the first case he had repeatedly urged on His Majesty the necessity of granting the reforms, and recently, after visiting all the Embassies, had counselled him to assent to the presence of a second "stationnaire" "as the best way of avoiding difficulties." What was the use of the Sultan's asking for his advice if he never took it? Further, he said, he was seriously alarmed by His Majesty's offer of an extraordinary office above that of Grand Vizier. The fact that His Majesty thought such a proposal was likely to tempt him showed he regarded him as an ambitious man. He cited the story of a Pasha in the time of Sultan Selim, who had been disgraced for aspiring to a share in the supreme power, and said he feared his own career might be similar if he accepted the Sultan's offer. He had been so often Grand

Vizier that he could afford to despise rank and office, and His Majesty's evident conviction that he still cherished ambitious designs much distressed him, and only confirmed his resolution to go abroad in order to show His Majesty that he had no desire to mingle in Court intrigues or to concentrate power in his own hands.

The Chief Secretary deprecated the idea of the Sultan having any such suspicions, and said His Majesty was only desirous to have so able and faithful a servant close to him. Said Pasha, however, dismissed him, with the request that he would once more lay before the Sultan his desire to leave Turkey with his family.

In twenty minutes the First Secretary returned with Raghib Bey, one of the Chamberlains, whom he said he had met on the way, and who was the bearer of an Iradé.

After consulting with Said Pasha your Excellency told me to tell Tahsin and Raghib Beys that His Highness was fatigued and could receive no more visits that day, but that they could see your Excellency if they wished. They grumbled at this message, but eventually went away.

No. 749.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 920.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 11, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a placard which has been widely circulated in Constantinople.

It appears to represent the views generally entertained by Mussulmans of every class. But I do not see any probability at present of active steps being taken by the Sultan's subjects to depose him. The Turks seem unable to carry out a combined plan of action, and they have no leaders. The precautions taken by the Sultan for his own safety appear, moreover, to make any direct attack upon him hopeless.

The only plan of which I have heard which seems to offer any chance of success is that some member of the Imperial family should be proclaimed Sultan in Stamboul, and that Abdul Hamid should be left to his own devices at Yildiz. But it would be essential to success that the army should first be gained over, and although there is undoubtedly much discontent among the officers, there is no reason to suppose that the men would not remain faithful to the reigning Sovereign.

I have been informed on very good authority that the Sultan gave privately as his real reason for refusing the new "stationnaires" that they might cut him off from Stamboul. It is probable that a movement such as I have mentioned may have been in his mind, and that he feared that if it took place the foreign vessels would station themselves in the Golden Horn, and prevent the access of his troops to Stamboul across the bridges.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 749.

Placard.

(Traduction.)

Compatriotes !

LA patrie se perd et se sacrifie pour le plaisir d'une personne. Nos âmes et nos biens sont en danger. La cruauté et l'absolutisme minent et mettent en déroute notre pays. Le peuple depuis la dernière guerre n'a pas pu se remettre encore. Le Padichah, au lieu d'améliorer la situation des paysans affamés et nus, ne s'efforce qu'à s'emparer de leurs terres ainsi que de leurs bœufs, moyen de leur existence. Il accapare les droits de la nation. Il souille sa dignité et son honneur. Il tue les hommes et philanthropes dans les prisons, à l'exil et en les torturant par des chaînes. Il exil et fait mourir de chagrin ceux qui demandent la Constitution pour le salut et le bonheur de la patrie ainsi que pour la tranquillité générale. La souveraineté d'un Padichah qui se conduit contrairement au Chéri et à la loi qui ne pense qu'à son bonheur et à son plaisir, qui gaspille annuellement 3,000,000 de livres de la nation pour les espions et les flatteurs, ne peut pas être légitime. Continuerons-nous encore à obéir à ceux qui détruisent la patrie? Continuerons-nous encore à nous fléchir le cou à ceux qui sucent le sang de la nation? Continuerons-nous encore à voir patiemment ceux qui aiment la patrie et qui travaillent à l'amélioration de

l'administration actuelle être avilis et tourmentés ? Il est vrai que tout le monde voit cet énorme danger. Chacun, à l'exception de ceux qui profitent du pillage, se plaint contre le Gouvernement actuel. Mais, vu l'absence d'accord entre nous, la plainte reste ensevelie et ne produit aucun son. Unissons-nous, au lieu de rester misérables et méprisables en gardant le silence. Formons des Comités composés des Ulémas, des Chefs Militaires, et des dignitaires du Gouvernement, sans distinction de nationalité et de religion. Envoyons des députations aux Valis et à la Sublime Porte. Faisons savoir la situation et l'opinion des Osmanlis. Obligeons le Padichah à agir conformément au Chéri et à la loi. Que notre plus grand chef soit la loi et la justice. Nous n'avons point l'intention de provoquer le monde à des massacres et à des insurrections et de faire une distinction entre les Musulmans et les Chrétiens. Tant que la discorde existe, on ne peut prévenir la ernauté et l'absolutisme. On ne peut pas s'imaginer un Gouvernement despotique qui puisse résister devant l'Union. Les militaires ne sont des bourreaux. Ils ne tirent pas sur leurs compatriotes et leurs frères. Un Souverain cruel ne peut jamais donner de son propre désir une liberté à ses sujets. Nous avons droit à la liberté. Demandons ce droit. Exigeons instamment une réunion composée des gens bien renseignés sur la situation et des philanthropes et la nomination des hommes possédant les faveurs du peuple, l'honnêteté, la capacité et le zèle à la tête des affaires du Gouvernement. Si le Padichah qui accepte l'humiliation et la bassesse de se mettre sous le joug des étrangers sans daigner demander le concours d'une Commission composée des enfants de la patrie, refuse la présente demande qui est faite au nom des intérêts et du salut de tous les Osmanlis, dans ce cas, enlevons d'une autre manière les souillures apportées au nom de notre nation.

Que l'union, la persévérance, et le courage soient les compagnons de notre conduite.

(Comité Ottoman du Progrès et de l'Union.)

No. 750.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 921.) *Constantinople, December* 11, 1895.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 903 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to state that at the meeting of Ambassadors which was held at the French Embassy yesterday, I called the attention of my colleagues to the continuance of massacres and pillage in the provinces of Asia Minor, and asked whether, in their opinion, we were not bound to take some steps to put an end to such a state of things.

The Austrian Ambassador spoke in favour of a discussion of the question, and expressed in eloquent terms his view of the responsibility that would fall upon us if we remained indifferent to what was taking place.

The Italian Ambassador followed in the same sense, and read an interesting letter from a Turkish officer to his friends in Constantinople, of which I am forwarding a copy in another despatch, and which gives a vivid picture of the state of the country, and of the wholesale slaughter carried on by the Kurds.

M. de Nélidoff was strongly pressed to state his views, and, while admitting the gravity of the situation, said the only suggestion he could offer was that we should press the Porte for a reply to the communication made by the Ambassadors more than a month ago, and should ask what steps were being taken.

I pointed out that such a representation would have no satisfactory results, that we should only receive in reply the usual denials and fictitious accounts of the events which were taking place.

I urged the necessity, for our own credit, and that of our Governments, of taking some more decided steps. The fact that the six Ambassadors were acting in concert had been widely proclaimed, and public opinion would, I thought, look for some result of our co-operation.

The only means, in my opinion, of exercising any control under existing circumstances was by the presence of Europeans on the spot; the salutary influence exercised by the Consuls proved this; and I cited the cases of Mush and Van, where, owing mainly to Messrs. Hampson and Hallward, there had been no outbreaks.

I suggested that we might recommend to our Governments the appointment of an International Commission, which should make an investigation on the spot, should point out the persons responsible for the massacres with a view to punishment being inflicted on them, and should devise means for restoring to those who had been robbed such property as could be recovered.

M. de Nélidoff replied that a proposal such as I had suggested could not properly be recommended by the Ambassadors, but must be initiated by the Cabinets. He added that, so far as he was concerned, his instructions did not authorize him to act in concert with the other Ambassadors for any purpose except that of securing the safety of the foreign colonies in Constantinople and its neighbourhood. He admitted that the presence of an International Commission would be beneficial if it could be carried out, but he saw great difficulties in the way, especially at this season of the year. He added, however, that if Her Majesty's Government were on my suggestion to make a proposal to the Cabinets, it would, no doubt, be referred to the Representatives here, who would then be at liberty to discuss it with their colleagues.

On the suggestion of M. Cambon it was agreed that a tabular statement of the places where massacres had taken place, with the numbers of those who were believed to have perished, and such particulars as we possessed of the conduct of the authorities, should be drawn up. For this purpose it was arranged that one of the Secretaries of each Embassy should be deputed to meet his colleagues, and that all the information in the possession of the various Embassies should be combined in one document, which would serve as a basis for further communication to the Porte.

Beyond this co-operation in setting forth the facts, it is clear that there will be no concerted action of the Ambassadors in regard to the troubles in Anatolia unless your Lordship should see fit to make some proposal to the Powers. Should the plan I have suggested meet with your approval, it would at any rate serve as a basis for discussion.

There may be insurmountable difficulties in carrying it out, but the mere mention of it would have a salutary effect on the Sultan, and might induce him to take more effective measures than he has hitherto done for the restoration of order and security.

It must be borne in mind that since the commencement of the disturbances in the Asiatic provinces no Turkish officer, civil or military, has been punished for the outrages inflicted on the Christians. Some few officials have been dismissed in consequence of our representations, but they have been subsequently appointed to other offices, or have had decorations conferred upon them.

The President of the Bible House, in the Report which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 869, states his belief that 300,000 Christians are in a state of entire destitution.

This estimate may be an exaggerated one, but there can be no doubt that there will be a terrible loss of life by starvation if steps are not promptly taken to provide the destitute population with necessaries, and to restore the property of which they have been plundered.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 751.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 16.)

Sir, *Admiralty, December* 13, 1895.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of letters from the Commanders of Her Majesty's ships "Melita" and "Dolphin" respectively, dated the 11th ultimo, respecting affairs at Jeddah.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 751.

Commander Simons to Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour.

Sir, "*Melita*," *at Jeddah, November* 11, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report that in accordance with orders from Rear-Admiral R. Duckworth-King, Senior Officer, I left Malta on the 25th October and arrived here on the 7th November, coaling at Port Said and anchoring for a few hours at Ismailia and Suez *en route*.

On arrival I found and relieved Her Majesty's ship "Dolphin," which proceeded to Suakin next day.

Nothing worth recording occurred on the voyage, the wind being fair the ship was most of the time under sail. I have exchanged visits with the Turkish Governor and Rear-Admiral.

There is no news of importance concerning the murderers of the British Vice-Consul, but many Arabs are being seized and imprisoned by the Grand Shereef and Vali round about Mecca and Jeddah in order to compel their tribes to assist in effecting the surrender of the murderers. Opinion here is doubtful as to the wisdom of this policy, and it may lead to the town being deprived of food and water supplies by the Arabs in retaliation.

All is quiet in Jeddah and Mecca themselves. The Turkish men-of-war, "Sinop" and "Nejm Feshan," and the Austrian surveying ship "Pola," are in port here.

The health of the ship's company is very good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. A. SIMONS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 751.

Commander Paget to Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour.

"*Dolphin*," *at Suwakin, November* 11, 1895.

SIR,

IN continuation of my last letter of proceedings the 28th October, I beg to report little change in the Hedjaz.

The Grand Shereef has failed to secure the voluntary surrender of the murderers, so on the 1st instant three Harb Sheikhs were arrested in Jeddah, the principal being Abdullah-bon-Wassil (Beni Malik sub-tribe located at Asfan, 40 miles north of Mecca), but the Turkish troops have not yet taken the offensive from Mecca, but there is a feeling of tense suspense in Jeddah, and nearly all traffic has stopped on the Jeddah-Mecca road.

The immense breaches in the Jeddah walls have now been repaired.

Pilgrims for the 1896 Hadj (July) are arriving by hundreds every week to avoid the prolonged quarantines that will be enforced later.

On the 2nd instant the Austrian "Pola," Captain von Pott, arrived in Jeddah. She is deep-sea dredging and sounding in the Red Sea, for this winter and spring 1896.

This season her field of operation will be from Jeddah north, including the Gulf of Akaba, next winter the Southern Red Sea. She has established (or will) meteorological and magnetic stations at thirty points, but she will not attempt reef or shore surveys, but she is refixing latitudes and longitudes.

On the 7th instant Her Majesty's ship "Melita" arrived from Suez, and I left Commander Simons orders to remain at Jeddah, directing him to communicate direct to you the state of affairs.

On the 8th instant I proceeded for Sawakin, where I arrived next day, and received your orders the 23rd October.

On the 15th the Sirdar Sir Herbert Kitchener arrives here to inspect the garrison.

After the arrival of the mail (23rd), with your approval, I will proceed to Massawa.

The health of the ship's company is very good, but I regret to have to report the death on the 31st October, from heart disease, of a seedie boy, "Farraqula Sunje."

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED PAGET, *Commander, and Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea.*

No. 752.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 108.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December* 15, 1895.

WITH reference to telegrams Nos. 103 and 104 received from your Lordship, I have the honour to report that the probable accuracy of the statements made by the Vice-Consul at Mush is admitted by Count Goluchowski, but his Excellency says that

the results of the intervention of France, England, and Russia on behalf of the Armenians are shown by experience to have been disastrous.

The Powers, he thinks, must wait so as to see if the Sultan will not really re-establish order and carry out his promises.

No. 753.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 100. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December* 15, 1895.

THE substance of Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 794 has been communicated by me to Count Goluchowski.

He says that he does not dispute the accuracy of the description of the situation, but that it is impossible to avert the fate which appears to be in store for the Armenians.

More massacres would probably result from further admonitions to the Sultan, and further "disaggregation" of the Ottoman Empire would necessarily be brought about by intervention of any other kind.

His Excellency understands that this is not desired by any Power, but it is his conviction that any further action would put "fire to the powder" and open the whole Eastern question; such a result would be a greater catastrophe than if the whole Armenian race were comparatively exterminated.

The strain which would be caused by any proposals for vigorous action could not be borne by the European concert. The recent difficulties over the question of the "stationnaires" shows this to be the case.

The only thing is to wait patiently and see what will be done by the Sultan; and if "the Armenians perish they must perish," if they are destined to do so.

No. 754.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 801.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 16, 1895.

FRENCH, Russian, Italian, and Austrian "stationnaires" have now arrived.

No. 755.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 803. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 16, 1895, 11 P.M.

IN a conversation which Costaki Pasha had with the Sultan, in consequence of my having warned his Excellency that he would find in England a strong feeling about the massacres, His Majesty informed him that he intended to appoint a Commission to inquire into them, that this Commission would be composed of persons inspiring the highest confidence, and that His Majesty himself would be its President.

I pressed for names, and was informed that Musurus Bey, formerly Ambassador at Rome, was the only one selected. He is quite incapable, and it was obviously the idea that his name would be popular in England which caused him to be suggested.

It cannot be doubted that this Commission will not be less shadowy than most of the others appointed here.

No. 756.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 804.) *Constantinople, December 16, 1895, 11·10 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I CONFERRED to-day with my Russian and French colleagues about the Commission of Control. The new President, Sivri Pasha, died a few days ago, and was never appointed.

Shefik Bey, whose appointment was objected to by your Lordship, has not been removed.

Meetings of the Commission are occasionally held, but they have been given no business to transact, and no information has been communicated to them.

We agreed that our Dragomans should be sent separately to inquire who is their President, and what they are doing.

No. 757.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 805.) *Constantinople, December 16, 1895, 11·10 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

IT has been proposed by the Russian and French Ambassadors that a representation pressing for settlement of the Jeddah claim should be made jointly to the Porte through our Dragomans. In accordance with a suggestion which I made, it was finally agreed that a separate representation should be made by each of us.

No. 758.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to the Marquess of Dufferin.**

(No. 173.) *Foreign Office, December 16, 1895.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

A TELEGRAM has been received from the British Vice-Consul at Mush, stating that he hears on reliable authority that the greater part of the surviving villagers of the districts of Saird and Chabakchor, and some portions of the Vilayet of Diarbekir, have been compelled to adopt the Moslem religion.

Such forced conversions would be entirely contrary to the declarations made by the Sultan.

I have communicated on the subject with the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and he suggests that the Ambassadors of the six Powers at Constantinople should be authorized to take steps to verify the report, with a view to a joint representation being made to the Porte if confirmation of the fact is received.

I shall be glad if your Excellency will request the Minister for Foreign Affairs to send instructions in the sense suggested.

No. 759.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 263.) *Foreign Office, December 16, 1895.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE just repeated to you a telegram from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh, reporting Prince Lobanoff's reply to the suggestion made by your Excellency for joint action by the Ambassadors of the Powers in regard to the forced conversion of Armenians to the Mussulman religion, which are now reported from different parts of the Armenian vilayets.

I will suggest to the French, German, Italian, and Austro-Hungarian Governments that they should authorize their Ambassadors at Constantinople to take steps to

* Also to Sir F. Lascelles (No. 137), Sir Clare Ford (No. 88), and Sir E. Monson (No. 106).

verify the intelligence received on this subject, with a view to a joint representation being made to the Porte, if the facts are confirmed.

According to the latest reports from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, Count Goluchowski is not inclined to join in further admonitions to the Sultan at present, and considers that any proposals for vigorous action would put too severe a strain on the European concert.

No. 760.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 924. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 13, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 921 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a document communicated to me by the Italian Embassy, giving a description of a journey made by an Ottoman official in the Government of Kharput. This paper is peculiarly interesting as being the only account we possess from a purely Turkish source of the condition of the Armenian provinces of Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 760.

Memorandum.

J'ÉTAIS accompagné par un officier Yuzbachi de la gendarmerie d'une dizaine de gendarmes, et d'un membre du Conseil de Mamouret [?] (Notable).

A 3 heures à la Turque de la nuit les villageois tout d'un coup ont commencé de décharger leurs fusils. Ce village étant très pauvre, chacun de nous était séparément logé dans une maison. Pendant ce bruit nous nous sommes réunis et nous en avons demandé le motif. Les villageois nous ont répondu que les Kurdes ennemis d'une autre tribu sont venu pour voler les troupeaux de moutons. Nous aussi nous nous sommes empressés de tirer en l'air pour menacer les ennemis et ainsi aider nos villageois. D'après l'enquête que nous avons ouverte il a été constaté que cette tentative était pour nous menacer.

Le lendemain les Kurdes de Virais [?] sont descendus des montagnes et ont pillé les villages d'Arméniens qui sont à une heure de Mamouret. Massacre des deux côtés. Je me suis mis en route accompagné des deux Coldjis et deux Kurdes. A 11 heures du soir sur la montagne deux Kurdes bien armés voulaient nous dépouiller; nous fûmes obligés de retourner et après avoir pris des renforts de Kurdes, amis à nous.

Les Kurdes allaient d'une part sur Malatia et nous avons appris qu'ils avaient déjà commencé à brûler la ville de Malatia et de Mamouret.

Le membre du Conseil est retourné à la maison et nous avons pris le chemin de Malatia.

C'était vers les 11 heures du soir à la Turque dans la plaine de Djelishian que nous avons rencontré 300 à 400 Kurdes armés. Nous leur avons demandé leur point de départ et ils nous ont dit qu'ils vont tuer Apraham Effendi, Arménien riche et Notable de Malatia et de Mamomel.

Apraham Effendi faisait partie de notre Commission, et nous n'avons rien dit aux Kurdes, mais nous avons eu peur de dormir à cet endroit.

Nous avons jeté toutes nos provisions pour soulager nos chevaux, et c'était après minuit qu'à un village nommé Abdulharab, à neuf heures de Malatia, nous sommes arrivés, car nous étions sûrs de ce village.

L'autorité d'Adana, pour assurer la tranquillité de son pays, avait envoyé 200 Arméniens célibataires, avec femmes et enfants, à destination pour Kharpout, leur patrie. Cette troupe d'Arméniens innocents était accompagnée d'un seul gendarme, qui est venu nous trouver, nous disant que les Kurdes tueront les Arméniens, et il nous a demandé aide et assistance. Nous, qui déjà en avions besoin, nous avons répondu "Très bien," et de grand matin nous nous sommes mis en route avec 100 recrues Kurdes avec les mains liées, parce qu'ils avaient été pris par force. Ceux-ci étaient

accompagnés par deux officiers et quatre gendarmes. Il fallait voir comme nous marchions. Plusieurs Arméniens se réfugiaient aux pieds de nos chevaux de sorte que les chevaux ne pouvaient pas marcher librement. De moment en moment notre troupe s'augmentait; de derrière chaque rocher sortaient quatre ou cinq Kurdes, et ils se fourraient parmi nous, et il est arrivé un moment où nous nous sommes trouvés parmi des milliers de Kurdes, dont chacun choisissait sa proie entre les Arméniens bien habillés et ceux-ci se réfugiaient aux pieds de nos chevaux. Avec ce tapage nous avons fait cinq heures de chemin. Les Kurdes demandaient aux voyageurs venant de Malatia ce qu'il y avait dans la ville, et à la suite des conseils que nous leur donnions ils répondaient qu'il n'y avait rien.

Quelques instants après, dans un endroit très difficile, c'est-à-dire dans une vallée entourée de rochers et de grandes pierres, nous avons rencontré un homme (Banabak) qui venait de Malatia, et qui s'est mis à crier: "Vous restez encore! Les Giaours ont brûlé la ville de Malatia!" Les Kurdes, qui jusqu'alors cherchaient un prétexte, se sont jetés sur nous, et ils ont commencé à tirer, tuer, couper avec la faux, et brûler les Arméniens, et ils se retiraient à mesure que chacun prenait sa quote-part (proie) d'Arméniens.

Nous ne pouvions pas nous sauver, ni à droite ni à gauche, car c'était une vallée. Ce fut alors que je pensai de jeter mon caoutchouc pour leur montrer mon uniforme d'officier. Grâce à Dieu, qu'avant de partir j'avais eu cette idée de m'habiller en officier. Ce furent mes boutons jaunes et les rubans d'or de mes bras qui m'ont sauvé la vie, et ce fut après vingt minutes que j'ai pu retrouver les officiers et les gendarmes qui m'accompagnaient, et ce fut avec grande promesse d'argent que des Notables Kurdes m'ont accompagné jusqu'à ce que j'ai rejoint mes compagnons. Pendant ce massacre on a aussi enlevé mon cheval chargé de mes effets. Plus de 100 Arméniens ont été massacrés dans ce tapage. Nous voulions nous éloigner d'eux, mais ils ne nous quittaient pas. Une heure après une autre attaque, faite par d'autres Kurdes, et une heure après une troisième attaque par d'autres Kurdes. Il restait sept Arméniens seulement de ces 200. Les Kurdes non seulement n'ont pas été blessés, mais ils n'ont pas essuyé la moindre résistance de la part des Arméniens. Nous voilà arrivés sains et saufs à Malatia.

A Abdulharab, où nous avions passé la nuit avec les Arméniens, j'avais fait distribuer du pain à ces pauvres gens, parce qu'ils mouraient de faim.

Les gendarmes m'ont dit à Malatia que les Kurdes voulaient me tuer aussi, me considérant comme Giaour pour la raison que j'avais donné du pain à ces pauvres Arméniens.

Je suis averti à Malatia que l'agitation avait commencé à Kharpout, et les Kurdes avaient brûlé les villages des Chrétiens même près de la ville. J'ai pensé à mes enfants, quand il se présenta un autre malheur.

M. X. demande secours et de l'argent depuis quelques jours. Son cocher ayant eu peur d'entrer à Malatia, l'a abandonné dans un village situé à trois heures de Malatia. Je voulais me rendre à Kharpout, mais ni les gendarmes ni les coldjis ne voulaient m'accompagner parce qu'ils avaient une autre tâche à remplir, c'est-à-dire qu'ils étaient tous occupés au pillage. J'ai préparé par l'entremise d'un Notable de Malatia une cinquantaine de Kurdes bien armés pour faire venir M. X. Ce Notable, qui était mon ami fidèle, ne voulait pas prendre la responsabilité sur lui; d'un autre côté moi non plus je ne pouvais pas confier M. X. entre les mains des gendarmes.

J'ai appris que l'Inspecteur des Télégraphes était dans le village où se trouvait M. X. Vu la grande amitié que j'avais avec l'inspecteur je le priai par fil de garder chez lui M. X. et de lui prêter 5 livres, ce qu'il a fait. Au bout de trois jours j'ai envoyé quelques gendarmes, des coldjis, et des Kurdes qui ont amené M. X. avec l'Inspecteur des Télégraphes, munis d'un grand turban blanc que je leur avais envoyé. Je portais aussi un grand turban blanc.

Comme il y avait encore des dangers sur la route je l'ai laissé à Malatia et je me suis rendu à Mezraa. Tous les Chrétiens riches de Malatia, plus de 600 à 700 ont été massacrés, leurs maisons et boutiques ont été pillées et les maisons incendiées. On n'a pas brûlé les boutiques mêlées avec celles des Musulmans. Ce sont les indigènes qui ont enlevé les meubles et les effets des Arméniens; il ne restait pour les Kurdes que des portes, des morceaux de vitres, des poutres et des fenêtres cassées. Ils ont enlevé aussi des jeunes filles pour les convertir à l'Islamisme. Les Kurdes ne tuaient pas les femmes et les enfants.

L'administration était tombée entre les mains des Kurdes. Les employés du Gouvernement ont porté des turbans pour sauver leur vie; c'est tout ce qu'ils ont pu faire.

C'était un fléau tombé du ciel. En me trouvant parmi une cinquantaine de Kurdes je disais aussi contre mon sentiment qu'ils faisaient bien. Que pouvais-je dire autrement?

Tout le monde disait: Nous tuons les Chrétiens à la suite des ordres de l'autorité. Les soldats qui venaient d'ici de là pour sauver les Arméniens, les Kurdes prétendaient que le Gouvernement les leur envoyait en aide et assistance. Les Kurdes avaient brûlé le quartier d'Arméniens de la ville de Kharpout, mais ils ne pouvaient pas entrer dans l'église des Protestants Américains parce qu'elle était en pierre et elle était entourée de soldats en nombre suffisant.

Le Commandant Militaire de place a envoyé comme renfort un canon pour repousser les attaquants et il a tiré sur eux, mais les Kurdes en général ne cessaient de prétendre que n'ayant pas réussi à conquérir depuis deux jours l'église, le Commandant pour les aider leur avait envoyé un canon; voilà une fausse prétention qui régnait dans l'opinion publique. C'est depuis deux jours que le public a compris la réalité et il a commencé de dire que leur agissement n'est nullement conforme au désir du Gouvernement et qu'ils seront tous fusillés.

Plus de soixante villages (Chrétiens) de Kharpout ont été pillés et brûlés, c'est-à-dire on n'a laissé aucun village d'Arméniens intact. Pendant ce butin beaucoup de Turcs aussi ont été lésés.

Le Gouvernement donne des rations aux pauvres Arméniens. Les Kurdes voyagent encore pour piller les villages des Chrétiens qui ne sont pas encore touchés.

Comme les Kurdes tous les indigènes, même des soldats, des officiers, et des gendarmes ayant pris part à ce butin, l'autorité ne peut pas toucher les coupables. Comment pourra-t-on faire des perquisitions dans des maisons pour revendiquer les meubles volés? Parce qu'il n'y a aucune maison qui n'en soit plus ou moins remplie. A Malatia on a tué même ceux qui se sont fait Turcs et circoncis.

La tranquillité publique a été rétablie et cela n'est pas à la suite de nos efforts mais parce qu'il ne reste plus rien à piller; c'est une sécurité naturelle.

Mamouret-ul-Aziz, le 6 Novembre, 1895.

No. 761.

Memorandum on the present Partial Mobilization in Turkey.—(*Communicated by the Intelligence Department, December* 17, 1895.)

(Confidential.)

A SHORT Statement of the forces actually under arms in the Ottoman Empire at the present moment may be of interest.

The number of units composing the regular army, both in peace and war, is as follows:—

Battalions.	Squadrons.	Batteries.
Infantry, Fortress Artillery, and Engineers.	Cavalry and Mounted Infantry.	Horse, Field, and Mounted.
3342	203	252 (Of 6 guns each.)

Their ordinary peace strength at the beginning of this year, officers and men, including all branches of the army, according to our information, amounted to about ..	180,000
To these must be added—	
1. Ihtiyat (reserve of regular army), called in—	
(*a.*) On account of Macedonian troubles in the summer..	10,000
(*b.*) On account of Asia Minor disturbances recently	15,000
2. The time-expired men who should have left the colours on the arrival of this year's recruit contingent, but have been retained, add, say	45,000
3. 157 Redif (Militia) battalions mobilized recently, about	90,000
Grand total	340,000

The manner in which these forces are at this moment distributed among the principal divisions of the Ottoman Empire is shown in the accompanying Table.

This distribution is of course abnormal.

TABLE showing the Abnormal Distribution and Strength of the Turkish Forces in December 1895.

	Battalions.		Squadrons (or Companies).	Batteries, Artillery.	Approximate Numbers, including all Arms.
	Nizam (Regulars), including Fortress Artillery and Engineers.	Redif (Militia Infantry).	Cavalry and Mounted Infantry.	Horse, Field, and Mountain.	
1. Turkey in Europe:—					
(*a.*) Constantinople Garrison (including Scutari and the Bosphorus)	52½	..	28	39	33,000
(*b.*) Turkey in Europe (exclusive of the above)	107½	12	65	90	93,000
Total	159½	12	93	129	126,000
2. Turkey in Asia:—					
(*a.*) Asia Minor and Syria* ..	63	145	59	65	144,000
(*b.*) Mesopotamia and Persian Gulf	34	..	30	17	19,500
Total	97	145	89	82	163,500
3. Tripoli	10¼	..	10	6	21,500
4. Crete	14	..	2	4	
Total	33¼	..	12	10	21,500
5. Arabia:—					
(*a.*) El Yemen	33	..	5	8	29,000
(*b.*) El Hedjaz	12	..	4	3	
Total	45	..	9	11	29,000
Grand-total	334½	157	203	232	340,000

* Of these there are in North Syria, as garrisons and employed to quell the Zeitoun and Marash disturbances, 37 battalions infantry, or about 19,000 men. In Central and South Syria a force, as under, is operating against the Druses in the Hauran—27 battalions infantry, 3 regiments cavalry, and 10 batteries artillery.

NOTE.—It is impossible to obtain absolutely reliable data as to the actual strength of units, so that the right-hand column can only be taken as approximately accurate.

"Die Reichswehr" of the 1st December last, in an article by Hassan Ahmed, its Constantinople correspondent, puts the total figure considerably higher, viz., at 370,000, and the same figure is given by the "Politische Correspondenz" of the 2nd December last, but both of these start on the supposition that the ordinary peace strength of the regular army is 220,000, or 40,000 more than our estimate.

In addition to these purely military forces there is the gendarmerie, which has a military organization and discipline, though not actually drilled and instructed. Many of the men have served in the army.

This force numbers about 125,000, of whom about 10,000 are mounted.

The total war strength Colonel Chermside estimates that Turkey can put in the field, if she is given time and her mobilization not interfered with, is:—

Regular army with all its reserves	363,282
Militia	355,300
Irregular cavalry	25,500
	744,082

In this the Mustafiz (Landsturm), which has no existing organization, has not been included.

The number of men required would be forthcoming, but their equipment and payment would present grave difficulties, as would also horse supply.

Out of the total number of Redif (Militia) battalions, 352, so far, 157 have been mobilized owing to the present crisis. They are not at their full strength, the average being 600 instead of 922, and Colonel Chermside states that arms and equipment were not, as a rule, forthcoming at the battalion head-quarters for more than about 600 men.

In one or two districts the men are said to have responded very unwillingly, or not at all, to the call to arms, but, on the whole, this, the first partial mobilization Turkey has had to undertake on at all a large scale since 1885-86, may be said to have been carried out rapidly and successfully.

The Redif battalions are said to be quite as good as, or even better, than the regulars.

The new territorial organization introduced a few years ago, at the instigation of Von der Goltz Pasha, seems to have worked very well.

The "Politische Correspondenz" letter from Constantinople says:—

"In general, it may well be asserted that this mobilization has afforded a fresh proof of the great military capabilities of Turkey, while at the same time exposing the financial weakness and the want of preparation of the Porte."

It may be worth mentioning that the new Mauser magazine rifles, over 500,000 of which lie stored at Constantinople, have in no cases yet been issued to the troops, who are still armed with the Martini-Peabody rifle. If all the Redifs were mobilized there would not be enough of the latter to go round, and some of the battalions would be armed with Sniders.

A recent Memorandum of Colonel Chermside's dealt with the capacity of the Turkish military organization to reinforce the garrisons of the Dardanelles and Gallipoli Peninsula.

These garrisons normally consist of ten battalions of fortress artillery and a whole or half battalion of infantry.

He assumes that the garrison of Yildiz Kiosk and its precincts and environs will remain untouched.

"If unrestricted sea communication outside the Dardanelles remains available for Turkey, she could in one week concentrate in the Straits 38 battalions (20,000 men), 20 squadrons, and 180 field guns.

"If sea communication outside the Dardanelles was not available, Turkey could concentrate on the shores of the Straits and in the Gallipoli Peninsula:—

Weeks.	Battalions.	Number of Infantry.	Squadrons.	Field Guns.	Total in round Numbers.
1	18	9,000 to 10,000	20	84	15,000
2	62	37,200	30	120	45,000
3	145	87,000	35	240	97,000
6	228	160,000 to 200,000	40	360	175,000 to 215,000

"If Turkish forces in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Ordus were retained owing to contemplated action of Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro, Greece, and Russia, the numbers of these concentrations would be very considerably affected.

"It is, therefore, very evident that Turkey could mobilize in a short time very large field forces on both sides of the Straits, which would not be hampered in the same way for want of transport and supply services as concentrations at a distance from the sea."

(Signed) W. E. FAIRHOLME, *Captain, D.A.A.G.*

December 16, 1895.

No. 762.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 806.) *Constantinople, December 17, 1895.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraph that a disturbance at Tarsus, resulting in the death of two Armenians, is reported by the Vice-Consul at Adana.

No. 763.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 110.) *Vienna, December 17, 1895.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI informed me to-day that he would at once telegraph to Baron Calice in the sense desired in your Lordship's telegram No. 106.

The readiness of the Armenians to be converted to Mahommedanism was the subject of some rather sarcastic remarks on the part of his Excellency.

No. 764.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 56.) *Berlin, December 17, 1895, 4:30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 137, I have the honour to state that the Imperial Government, as Baron von Marschall informs me, will be ready to join in any common action of which the other Powers approve.

No. 765.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 931.) *Pera, December 14, 1895.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of reports, furnished to me by the Russian Embassy, from the Russian Consuls at Trebizond and Kerassunde respecting the horrible massacres of Armenians which have taken place in their districts.

I have, &c.
(signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 765.

Extract from a Report by the Russian Consul at Trebizond, dated November 18 (30), 1895.

LE 2 (14) Novembre au soir le Caïmacam d'Ordou reçut deux télégrammes du Moudir de Boulanan et du Caïmacam de Fatsa lui annonçant que des troupes d'Arméniens avaient attaqué plusieurs villages Musulmans sur la frontière du Vilayet de Sivas et se hâta d'expédier vers les points indiqués une compagnie de Rédifs.

Le lendemain matin trois paysans Turcs arrivés successivement des villages Escar, Tchaouchlar, et Perchenbé Beyli Keui, situés aux environs d'Ordou, annoncèrent aux autorités que les Arméniens approchaient de leurs villages en dévastant et en pillant tout sur la route. En même temps une foule de paysans Turcs armés se mit sur la ville. Il y eut un sauve-qui-peut général parmi les paisibles habitants de la ville.

Par bonheur le Caïmacam n'ayant pas perdu sa présence d'esprit donna aux troupes l'ordre d'occuper toutes les issues afin d'empêcher l'entrée dans la ville de la foule Turque, dont le nombre augmentait toujours. Un autre détachement de 300 hommes fut chargé

de disperser les paysans, qui avaient déjà réussi à entrer dans la ville. Grâce à ces mesures l'ordre fut bientôt rétabli.

On suppose que les paysans qui se trouvaient dans Ordou n'attendaient que l'arrivée de leurs compagnons du dehors pour commencer le massacre des Arméniens. Ils avaient même commencé à piller quelques boutiques Arméniennes que leurs propriétaires avaient laissées ouvertes.

Les gendarmes à cheval envoyés par le Caïmacam pour vérifier l'exactitude de la nouvelle de l'attaque des villages Turcs par les Arméniens ont déclaré qu'elle était fausse. Mais comment expliquer dans ce cas l'arrivée simultanée de trois points différents de messagers qui provoquèrent une panique dans la ville? Il est fort probable que ces messagers ont obéi aux ordres du même parti qui induisait en erreur le Moudir de Boulanan et le Caïmacam de Fatsa et leur fit expédier à Ordou les télégrammes susmentionnés.

Un incident analogue eut lieu à Tripoli le 2 (14) Novembre. Le Maire de Tripoli, Mehmed Effendi Dourak Zadé, qui se trouvait dans un village à 3 heures de distance de la ville, fit demander une escorte au Caïmacam lui annonçant l'apparition des hordes Arméniennes dans le voisinage. En même temps près de 500 paysans armés se précipitèrent dans la ville pour attaquer les Arméniens. Ces derniers prirent la fuite. Le Caïmacam envoya sans perte de temps à la rencontre des paysans un demi-bataillon de Rédifs qui les dispersa.

Il se trouva par la suite que les prétendues hordes Arméniennes n'existaient que dans l'imagination de Dourak Zadé.

Il paraît que le plan suivi d'Ordou et à Tripoli consistait à réunir aux environs de la ville des masses de paysans armés d'amener les autorités à éloigner les troupes sous prétexte de l'apparition dans le voisinage d'insurgés Arméniens, et enfin à faire entrer les paysans dans la ville pour piller et massacrer les habitants.

Un plan pareil ne pouvait être combiné et mis à exécution par une seule personne. Notre Vice-Consul à Kerassunde pense que cela doit être l'œuvre de tout un parti.

Les désordres d'Ordou et de Tripoli ont eu un léger contrecoup à Kerassunde. Le 5 (17) Novembre on y fit courir le bruit que quatre Arméniens avaient été tués, et une maison Arménienne pillée près de Sembourg de Boulandjak. Cette rumeur se trouva être erronée; les autorités se hâtèrent néanmoins de cantonner un bataillon de Rédifs dans différentes parties du district.

Inclosure 2 in No. 765.

Report by the Russian Consul at Kerassunde, dated November 13 (25), 1895.

J'AI l'honneur de vous faire part des détails complémentaires que je viens d'avoir sur les faits survenus dans le Sandjak de Kara-Hissar, ainsi que des dernières nouvelles de la ville de Kara-Hissar, nouvelles et détails qui m'ont été fournis par un négociant Grec, homme de toute confiance, venu ces jours-ci de la dite ville.

Les Arméniens continuent à rester réfugiés dans l'église et les khans y avenant. Leur nombre, qui n'était que de 2,000 à 3,000 personnes, est monté à près de 5,000 âmes, par suite de l'influence des femmes et des enfants qui ont pu s'échapper des villages avoisinants, où eurent lieu les massacres.

La misère, les souffrances, et les privations que ces pauvres gens sont en train d'endurer, sont indescriptibles. Pour nourriture, une faible ration de pain; comme lit, quelques haillons qu'ils ont pu emporter hors de leur fuite, entassés pêle-mêle les uns sur les autres: hommes, femmes, et enfants malades et blessés, morts et agonisants, telle est leur situation depuis un mois. Quelques-uns d'entre eux, ne pouvant plus supporter ce genre de vie, s'avisèrent de sortir pour aller dans leurs maisons; ils furent impitoyablement massacrés par la populace Turque.

Il est vraiment étonnant que malgré la présence de tout un bataillon de Rédifs, l'autorité locale ne parvienne à réprimer cette furie de carnage qui s'est emparée de la population Musulmane de Kara-Hissar. Il ne passe pas de jour sans que l'on n'ait à enregistrer quelques nouveaux meurtres, et les auteurs de ces meurtres ne sont le moins du monde molestés.

Ceci fait généralement croire que les massacres opérés dans tout le sandjak durant les journées du 11 au 20 Octobre ont été organisés par le Gouvernement lui-même. D'ailleurs, plusieurs faits viennent à l'appui de cette opinion: (1) l'aveu des tristes acteurs de cette boucherie, qui disent avoir agi par ordre supérieur; (2) l'assertion des officiers eux-mêmes (notamment du Malazim Hamidieh Hassan Effendi) que les soldats qui voulaient prendre

pût aux massacres avaient la permission de leurs chefs de le faire pourvu qu'ils se travestissent en civils; (3) le fait que dix ou quinze jours avant les massacres les percepteurs des impôts avaient reçu de l'autorité les ordres les plus sévères de réussir coûte que coûte et à toute force à faire payer au plutôt par les Arméniens tous les impôts et tous les arriérés d'impôts qu'ils devaient; (4) le fait que l'autorité a ordonné à la communauté Grecque de faire hisser des pavillons à chacune des extrémités des quartiers Grecs pour que ces quartiers puissent être distingués des quartiers Arméniens; et enfin (5) la pleine et entière impunité des massacreurs et des pillards. Le nombre des Arméniens tombés victimes de ces massacres dans Kara-Hissar même n'est que d'une centaine, mais dans les villages il monte à plus de 3,000 âmes. Vingt-huit sont les villages où le massacre eut lieu avec plus ou moins d'intensité. Les villages les plus éprouvés sont: Tauzara, Yaïdji, et Tchirdikli, dans lesquels, en dehors de la population masculine, on a massacré aussi beaucoup de femmes et d'enfants. Dans le village de Tauzara, la populace entre dans la grande église de Sourpe-Takavor, y profana l'autel et tous les objets sacrés, souilla les saintes images et enleva le trésor de l'église, consistant en vases sacrés et en 312 oques d'argenterie.

Deux villages, Endérés et Purk, ont été complètement brûlés.

Le nombre que l'on a pu établir jusqu'à présent de femmes et de filles enlevées des divers villages, et qui se trouvent encore entre les mains des Turcs, s'élève déjà à plus de quarante. Tout le bétail des villageois Arméniens a été pris.

Toutes les maisons des villages attaqués furent pillées de tout ce qu'elles contenaient. On enleva même les habits des pauvres femmes restées vivantes, sans leur laisser ni de quoi couvrir leur nudité ni de préserver leurs pauvres enfants du froid rigoureux qu'il fait maintenant dans ces parages-là. Là où ils ne parviennent pas à emporter toutes les provisions qu'il y avait en farine, blé, &c., les Turcs poussaient la méchanceté jusqu'à verser sur ces provisions du pétrole, pour que les Arméniens survivants les retrouvent mais ne puissent pas en user.

Je ne crois pas que l'exposé de toutes ces atrocités soit exagéré, d'abord parce qu'elles ont été répétées et confirmées déjà par plusieurs témoins oculaires, et puis parce qu'ici même on a vu plusieurs femmes Arméniennes venues de Kara-Hissar tout à fait dépourvues de leurs vêtements, et femmes portant des habits d'homme.

Ayant demandé à mon interlocuteur si, soit à Kara-Hissar, soit dans les villages, les Arméniens avaient fait ces derniers temps quoique ce soit qui eût excité les Turcs à sévir contre eux d'une manière si cruelle et si barbare, il me répondit que non. Il a même ajouté:—

"Au contraire, depuis l'affaire de Trébizonde les Arméniens étaient si terrifiés et si consternés que la moindre velléité d'agitation avait disparu en eux. Si de quelques maisons Arméniennes attaquées par la populace effrénée il fut tiré quelques coups de feu, les Arméniens n'avaient agi en cela qu'en plein droit de légitime défense, et ils ont d'ailleurs ni tué ni blessé personne. De même de la terrasse de l'église quelques coups de fusils furent tirés, mais c'est à ces quelques coups que des milliers d'Arméniens doivent leur vie, car la foule qui se ruait vers le quartier pour y semer l'extermination s'arrêta, et c'est alors que les Arméniens purent tous se réfugier dans l'église et dans les deux khans, où ils sont encore jusqu'à présent; sans cela pas un des Arméniens de la ville n'aurait échappé à la mort, pas une maison ne serait restée non-pillée, et tandis que l'on ne compte en ce moment que 100 victimes, deux maisons pillées, et une maison brûlée, on les compterait alors par milliers et par centaines."

C'est Dimanche, le 15 Octobre, vers le soir, que la "houdjoum" (assaut) (pour me servir des propres termes de mon interlocuteur) fut donnée aux Arméniens de la ville. Cet assaut fut renouvelé le Lundi, et c'est alors qu'ils se réfugièrent dans l'église et dans les khans. Mardi, les Notables Turcs de Kara-Hissar rédigèrent un procès-verbal, où les faits survenus étaient exposés d'une manière tout à fait fausse, disant que les Arméniens s'étaient soulevés, qu'ils avaient attaqué les Turcs les premiers, qu'ils avaient publiquement blasphémé la religion du Prophète, que de l'église ils avaient tiré sur le minaret de Tarchon Djamissi pour tuer le Muezzin, et un tas d'autres mensonges, et que par suite de cela le peuple Turc s'était jeté sur eux sans que l'autorité ait pu les retenir, &c. Ils invitaient les Grecs à signer ce procès-verbal. Ces derniers refusèrent, alléguant qu'ils ne pouvaient pas signer une chose qui n'était pas conforme à la vérité. Alors les Turcs les menacèrent de les massacrer comme les Arméniens. Sur une telle menace les Grecs s'adressèrent à leur Métropolitain pour lui demander conseil. Le Métropolitain leur dit que, pour éviter des malheurs plus grands, ils ne pouvaient faire à moins que de signer, et alors une soixantaine de Grecs (mon interlocuteur y compris) signèrent le procès-verbal, qui probablement a été expédié à Constantinople.

D'après l'opinion de mon interlocuteur, opinion qui est probablement celle de tout le

monde à Kara-Hissar, le but pour lequel les Turcs avaient fait ce procès-verbal n'était pas pour servir comme justification pour le mal commis par eux, mais pour servir comme instrument au moyen duquel ils espéraient obtenir de Constantinople la permission si ce n'est l'ordre de sévir de plus belle contre les malheureux Arméniens. "Car," a-t-il ajouté, "comment ce procès-verbal servirait-il de justification quand sa fausseté était évidente? Si l'agression avait été réellement faite par les Arméniens, n'y aurait-il pas eu au moins un Turc tué?"

Après tout ce que l'on connaît depuis longtemps et surtout depuis ces deux derniers mois sur les atrocités dont se sont montrés capables les Turcs, il serait oiseux d'y revenir pour répéter ce que mon interlocuteur m'a raconté sur les yeux crevés, les oreilles coupées, et les membres mutilés dans la ville même, au su et au vu de tout le monde. Mais ce qui pourrait tenir le record comme raffinement de cruauté et de barbarie a été vu à Tauzara. Après avoir tué une jeune femme Arménienne, qui était en train de donner le sein à son enfant de six mois, les Turcs s'amusèrent à faire prendre à l'enfant le sein de sa mère morte et ils restèrent à contempler ce spectacle jusqu'à ce que le cadavre fut tout à fait froid. Alors ils abandonnèrent là l'enfant et ils s'en allèrent.

Voilà, M. le Consul, la version la plus exacte de ce qui s'est passé dans le Sandjak de Kara-Hissar depuis le 15 Octobre jusqu'aujourd'hui. J'ai la pleine certitude que mes renseignements sont véridiques (1) parce qu'ils proviennent de source Grecque et surtout d'un Grec qui, en tant que signataire du fameux procès-verbal aurait tout intérêt à prendre le parti des Turcs plutôt que celui des Arméniens; et (2) parce qu'avant de les croire je les ai minutieusement confrontés avec ceux de diverses autres sources.

Que le nouveau Mutessarif de Kara-Hissar, Habbi Bey, que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous faire connaître par mon rapport du 20 Octobre, ne soit pas capable de pacifier le pays, cela n'est pas étonnant, mais on ne saurait comment expliquer la conduite du Vali de Sivas, Halil Bey, qui passe pourtant pour un homme de progrès. Il n'a rien fait jusqu'à présent pour rétablir l'ordre à Kara-Hissar. Il n'y a envoyé aucun des hauts fonctionnaires du vilayet; au contraire, en rappelant immédiatement à Sivas l'Alai Bey, qui se trouvait à Kara-Hissar lors des massacres, Halil Bey a voulu abandonner le sandjak à la merci des massacreurs. Faut-il voir dans cette façon d'agir du Vali une nouvelle preuve que tout ce qui se passe en ce moment-ci en Anatolie se fait par ordre de Constantinople?

No. 766.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 18.)

(No. 369.)

Vienna, December 15, 1895.

My Lord,

THE "Neue Freie Presse" of this morning published a statement of the motives which, according to the correspondent of that paper at St. Petersburgh, have actuated the Russian Government in the policy pursued by them in regard to the question of the demand for second "stationnaires" formulated by the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople.

It is alleged in this statement (a summary of which is given in the inclosed extract from the "Correspondance Politique") that the policy of the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh had been devoted to the object of preserving the interests of the Sultan against any eventualities due to English policy. The correspondent explains that the French and Russian naval forces in Turkish waters are as nearly as possible equal in number and strength to those of England and Italy, and that as the German ships may be counted upon to act also in defence of the Sultan, there would be no question of the superiority of force being found on the side of the Anglo-Italian fleet.

Under these circumstances, it was reasonably hoped at St. Petersburgh that the Sultan would be convinced that he would be wise in yielding to the demand of the Powers, since the presence of additional "stationnaires" would, in case of necessity, insure protection for himself. Such a contingency was by no means regarded at the Russian capital as not to be taken into account.

The reproduction of this statement in the "Correspondance Politique" invests it with a sufficient importance to make it worth reporting to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 766.

Extract from the "Correspondance Politique" of December 15, 1895.

LA Nouvelle Presse libre reçoit de Saint-Pétersbourg un Exposé des Motifs qui auraient guidé la politique Russe dans la question des deuxièmes stationnaires. Il en résulte que le Gouvernement Russe se serait toujours efforcé de préserver les intérêts du Sultan contre des surprises éventuelles de la politique Anglaise. "Les navires Russes et Français rassemblés dans les eaux Turques sont à peu près égaux en nombre et en force à ceux de l'Angleterre et de l'Italie. De plus, on peut s'attendre à ce que les vaisseaux Allemands servent également à protéger le Sultan, de sorte que la supériorité ne se trouverait nullement du côté de la flotte Anglo-Italienne. On espère avec certitude à Saint-Pétersbourg que le Sultan acquerra la conviction que ce qu'il avait de mieux à faire, c'était de céder à la demande des Puissances, puisque les seconds stationnaires peuvent, le cas échéant, lui assurer à lui aussi de la protection. La possibilité d'une pareille éventualité n'était aucunement regardée comme exclue dans la capitale Russe."

No. 767.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 18.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Lord George Hamilton, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in letter from the Political Resident, Aden, dated the 27th November last, regarding the Arab revolt in the Yemen.

India Office, December 17, 1895.

Inclosure in No. 767.

News given to the Native Assistant Resident by another Resident of San'a regarding the Arab Revolt in Yemen.

IN respect to the news given on the 18th instant, a man who left San'a about twenty days ago tells me, on inquiry, that the Imam is very active, and the number of men under him is considerable and numbers 20,000 (exact number not known), armed with Martini-Henry and Snider rifles.

2. That is not true that the Imam has occupied the fort of Ad-Dthafir. That the fort of Badbuda has been taken by the Imam's Makkadams, but the loss of the Turks is said to be only about 50, and not 300, who died in defence of the cannon which the Arabs were trying to carry away. That the Sheikhs at Khollan were desired by the Turks to fight the Imam, but they refused, and they (twenty-five men) were taken away to San'a as prisoners.

3. That it is true that 6,000 Turkish soldiers have arrived at San'a, but they are all undrilled conscripts. The Turkish soldiers under the Governor-General number about 17,000 men, and it is believed he will proceed with 12,000 against the Imam. That when my informant left San'a the Governor-General was quite ready to start, and that about 400 camels have already been engaged for carrying supplies, &c.

4. That it is not true that the Arabs killed five men at Khil'at Nakil Assar, but that the number of soldiers at that place was only four men. That the Arabs waited until three of the soldiers went to San'a to get things, and then attacked the fort and killed the one remaining soldier.

5. The news about the coin is true. That about the letters and presents which it was to have been sent [*sic*] to the Imam by the Sultan is not a fact.

Aden, November 25, 1895.

No. 768.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 807. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 18, 1895, 10·30 A.M.*

THERE is now a greater disposition on the part of my colleagues to recommend that pressure should be exerted for the establishment in Turkey of a responsible Ministry.

The French and Russian Ambassadors insist strongly on the importance of carefully preparing the ground before any definite proposal is made.

As a first step they will, I hope, write to their Governments by courier recommending that instructions shall be sent to the Ambassadors at Constantinople to consult together and propose some remedy for the existing state of disorder, which if left uncontrolled must lead to a breakdown of the entire machinery of government, and to a reopening, in an aggravated form, of the Eastern question.

It is thought better that nothing should be said at Rome at present, as M. Blanc's discretion is doubted.

The German Ambassador is well disposed, and if the French Government are favourable, it is possible that their influence may induce Russia to agree.

No. 769.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 808.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 18, 1895, 11 A.M.*

MR. CUMBERBATCH telegraphed yesterday from Erzeroum that large numbers of destitute Armenians are arriving there from Constantinople, whence they have been expelled, and that the Mustafis soldiers have been disbanded. He adds that there is no intention of executing the reform scheme until the pacification of the country is considered as sufficiently established.

No. 770.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 809.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 18, 1895, 12·45 P.M.*

I AM informed that the Sultan tried to obtain a Fetva from the Sheikh-el-Islam, declaring that Safid Pasha, on account of taking refuge in this Embassy, had become a renegade.

The Fetva was not issued.

No. 771.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 266.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 18, 1895.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 914 of the 10th instant relative to the work of relieving the distressed Armenians of the Sasun district.

The Armenian Relief Committee, as mentioned in my telegram No. 257 of the 13th instant, are anxious to learn your views as to the further distribution of assistance outside that district, and I should be glad if you would telegraph your recommendations on this point.

No. 772.

The Marquess of Dufferin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 390.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 17, 1895.*

UPON the receipt this morning of your Lordship's telegram No. 173 of the 16th instant, I addressed a note to M. Berthelot, marked "Urgent," communicating to his Excellency the substance of your Lordship's telegram respecting the proposal made by Prince Lobanoff, that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should be authorized to take steps to verify the reports of the forcible conversion of Armenians to Mahommedanism in certain districts of Asia Minor, with a view to making a joint representation if the fact should be confirmed.

I at the same time urged his Excellency's adhesion to this suggestion, and asked that instructions in this sense might be sent without delay to the French Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

No. 773.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 810.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 19, 1895, 11·10 A.M.

I RECEIVED a visit from the Foreign Minister yesterday, who informed me that the troops had now surrounded the Zeitounlis, but that the Sultan, still hoping that they may be induced to surrender, delays ordering the attack to be made.

His Excellency added that the Porte had received reports that the Zeitounlis had burned and plundered Mussulman villages, had massacred their Ottoman prisoners, and had committed outrages on women and children who had fallen into their hands.

No. 774.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 811.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 19, 1895, 11·10 A.M.

MR. HAMPSON reports that the missionaries who were carrying on the relief work in Sasun, having expended 2,955*l.* there, have now left for Bitlis.

No. 775.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 812.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 19, 1895, 12·30 P.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 266 of yesterday, I have the honour to state that on the 30th ultimo I approved the proposal of the Constantinople Relief Committee to send 1,000*l.* to Erzeroum, 1,000*l.* to Kharput, 500*l.* to Trebizond, and 500*l.* to Mardin.

Further, on the 15th instant I agreed, subject to the approval of the Duke of Westminster's Committee, that sums of 500*l.* each should be granted to Cesarea, Marash, and Aintab.

The selection of the places to which money should be sent should, I consider, be left to the judgment of the Local Committee, who should communicate with me on the subject. In making their choice they must be guided not only by the information they receive, but also by the facilities offered for the distribution of relief. At present, the missionaries who inhabit the towns are both their principal sources of information and means of distribution. It would be necessary to send special agents to distribute relief in the country district, and the organization of the Red Cross Society might be very useful for this purpose.

No. 776.

The Marquess of Dufferin to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 403.) *Paris, December* 19, 1895.

My Lord,

AS already reported, immediately on the receipt of the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 173 of the 17th instant, I forwarded a note in the sense desired to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, relative to the forced conversion of Armenians to Islamism announced by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush. The next day I called upon the Minister for his reply.

My note had evidently not yet reached M. Berthelot's hands, but when I

explained the nature of its contents he said that as a matter of course the French Ambassador at Constantinople would acquiesce in the suggested proceeding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

No. 777.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 111. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December* 20, 1895.

WITH reference to Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 807, I took the opportunity to-day to remind Count Goluchowski that Sir P. Currie, during his stay in Vienna, had in a conversation with him alluded to the desirability of establishing a responsible Ministry at Constantinople, and I said that his Excellency would in all probability soon hear from Baron Calice on the subject, as I knew that Sir Philip had lately conferred with his Austrian colleague in regard to this question.

While fully agreeing as to the expediency of the proposal, Count Goluchowski seems to be strongly of the opinion that the opposition of Russia would frustrate any attempt in this direction, Russia being only too ready to avail herself of any opportunity of proving to the Sultan that she is his only true friend, and thus bringing about the destruction of the European concert.

His Excellency thinks that the Sultan should be allowed to carry on his affairs in his own way for the present, but that, of course, any suggestion made by Baron Calice, in conjunction with Sir P. Currie and M. Cambon, would receive his best consideration.

From what I gather, he does not feel disposed for the present to take any action in the matter.

No. 778.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 268.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 20, 1895.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that the French Government have agreed to authorize their Ambassador at Constantinople to acquiesce in the suggested proceeding in the matter of the forced conversions of Armenians to the Mostem religion.

No. 779.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 269.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 20, 1895.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 805 of the 17th instant relative to representations which you and your French and Russian colleagues propose to make to the Porte pressing for settlement of the Jeddah claims.

I approve the course agreed to, in accordance with the suggestion made by your Excellency.

No. 780.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 813.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 21, 1895, 11·45 A.M.

I AM informed by Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo that the suffering in his district is already great, and will become appalling as winter advances. Money is urgently needed for the relief of the destitute, especially at Marash.

There is great need for warm clothing. Grain can be obtained if only money is provided to purchase it. I have communicated the above to the Armenian Relief Committee here.

No. 781.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 814.)
(Telegraphic) P. *Constantinople, December* 21, 1895, 6·30 P.M.

IT appears that the Zeitounlis have offered to submit, but that the Turks insist on their laying down their arms and handing over their leaders. This they will probably refuse to do, and will then be slaughtered.

I have made representations to-day at the Porte through Mr. Block, and have urged that, at any rate, measures should be taken to prevent indiscriminate slaughter.

The German Emperor instructed his Ambassador to make similar representations in His Majesty's name.

No. 782.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 925.) *Constantinople, December* 13, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith extract from a private letter which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, respecting the state of affairs in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 782.

Acting Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Private.) [*Undated.*]
(Extract.)

MY mediation between Mgr. Shishmanian and the two Pashas has succeeded, and they have "shaken hands," but the game of the latter appears to be to ignore that Prelate's right to represent and interfere on behalf of the Armenian community, except in matters purely spiritual. They will deal with the leading men of the place, and have already commenced *pourparlers*. Some eight of them were induced to telegraph to the Patriarch for the Archbishop's removal, but without effect, so there is virtually a split in the Armenian camp, which for their sakes is to be regretted, but then there never was unity among them.

As to reforms, nothing is heard about their introduction.

Shakir's visit to Khinis was too late. One or two tribes of Kurds there had refrained from attacking some four or five villages, and he recommended them for decorations forthwith, only to find out from me on his return here that their abstention had been paid for at the price of 200*l*. He was somewhat disgusted.

I hear to-day that the Americans have started relief funds, and have wired to the missionary here (Chambers) to dispose of 100*l*. at once. Are we going to do anything in this line?

Funds are at a very low ebb in Turkish provincial coffers, and I don't see how they are going to defray their extra military expenses. Unless it is in view of foreign complications, there was no necessity for the hurried mobilization of the Reserves. The regular troops would be able to tackle the Kurds if business in that quarter was really meant, and as for the Armenians, they haven't got a "kick" in them.

No. 783.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 926.) *Constantinople, December* 14, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith two despatches from Mr. Barnham on the massacres which have occurred at Marash, Aintab, and other places in the Vilayet of Aleppo.

It is, I think, evident that the authorities of this province behaved in a different manner from those in the six vilayets named in the scheme of reforms, and have

exerted themselves to prevent massacres. If this view is correct, it would confirm the view generally entertained that in the six vilayets the officials received orders from Constantinople for the destruction of the Armenian population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 783.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleppo, November* 24, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a Report upon the massacres which have recently occurred in this Consular district.

Events have succeeded each other so rapidly that I have hitherto restricted myself to a free use of the telegraph, trusting that within a reasonable time I should find leisure to write a full and accurate Report. I have, however, found so great a difficulty in communicating with the scenes of disturbance that I cannot venture to call this a complete narrative of what has taken place. Very much unquestionably remains to be told.

The authorities, fearing to increase the general panic by allowing the news to spread, have withheld the delivery of the post from Urfa, Aintab, and Marash. Special messengers bearing letters addressed to myself and to the American Vice-Consul have been arrested and imprisoned, and my letters restored to me after so long delay, and in such a condition, as to warrant the belief that they had been opened. Friends at the various Missions, apprised of these facts, and unwilling to expose their messengers to ill-treatment, are deterred from writing frequently. They are compelled to write by post, trusting that their letters will ultimately be delivered, and, moreover, to write in cypher. Telegrams received by private individuals are valueless, as they are subject to the Censure, and nothing allowed to pass which has not the approval of the Government. These difficulties are enhanced by the wild rumours fabricated in the city, especially by the Christians and Jews, whose brains appear to have become addled by fear. Nine-tenths of the reports which reach me by word of mouth are senseless, and without a shadow of foundation.

One source of information has always been open to me—facts brought to my knowledge by the Lieutenant-General commanding the troops. I would, judging by experience, be most distrustful of information derived from a Turkish source, but I shall have occasion during the present Report to refer more than once to the services rendered by Edhem Pasha to the people of Aleppo during the present crisis, from which your Excellency will, I feel sure, recognize in him an officer of rare ability and devotion to duty. He is a man who knows no distinction between Mussulman and Christian, and who does not adopt the reports of his subordinates and communicate them to Constantinople without testing their accuracy.

I would acknowledge, with gratitude, on behalf of those whose interests I have the honour to protect, that the authorities have made every effort to secure their safety, and that up to the present date no European has been molested.

It would, perhaps, be of interest and useful for future reference that I should state the number and place of residence of those under British protection. Of natural-born British subjects there are in the city of Aleppo 13, in Alexandretta 20, in Aintab 1, in Marash 4, in Antioch 2; total, 10. The number of protected subjects is about 250, mostly resident in Aleppo.

The scenes of disturbance have been Zeitoun, Marash, Aintab, and Urfa in the Vilayet of Aleppo, and Pyas, with its surrounding villages, in the Vilayet of Adana.

Zeitoun.

This town is situated 50 hours or 105 miles north of Aleppo, and 12 hours or 36 miles from Marash, and is approached from Aleppo through the towns of Aintab and Marash. It stands 3,700 feet above the sea, and is built in terraces on the slope of a mountain 3,700 feet above the sea-level. It has a population of between 8,000 and 9,000 Armenians, who in time of peace earn their living as

muleteers or as shoesmiths, but who take to the road and plunder when harsh treatment by the Government makes it difficult for them to earn money by lawful means. Their past history is notorious, and has stamped them as an independent and warlike people, the use of arms being familiar to the women as well as to the men. The town is divided into Upper and Lower Zeitoun, which are separated by a small ravine traversed by a mountain torrent, called Zeitoun-Sou, and spanned by a bridge. About a mile from the town there is a flat-topped hill, on which stands the fort of Zeitoun, and in this fort there was, at the time these troubles commenced, a garrison of 400 soldiers, commanded by a Binbashi, and the position was defended by two pieces of cannon.

During the present year the Zeitounlis, who are among the poorest of the people of Asia Minor, have been treated by the Government with unusual severity in the collection of taxes, and it was when they were exasperated to the utmost that Aghassé and other Hunchag agents appeared among them and organized them for rebellion. Around Zeitoun, and forming part of that district, are numerous villages, Armenian and Kurdish, and it was the people of Alabash, one of these Armenian villages, who commenced hostilities by attacking a convoy proceeding from Marash to Zeitoun, killing the officer in command and ten soldiers. The troops then attacked Alabash (15th October), and a fight ensued, which lasted six hours, and resulted in heavy loss on both sides. It is, however, evident that the troops were worsted in the action, for they were compelled to retreat to the fort, where they were besieged. Their water supply was cut off, and after two days' severe fighting they surrendered. Four hundred rifles, a large supply of ammunition, and two guns thus fell into the hands of the rebels. The news of this success caused considerable consternation here and in Constantinople, and, simultaneously with the calling out of the Reserves in other vilayets, those from the Vilayet of Aleppo were at once mobilized, and five battalions reached Marash at the commencement of the month. It is unknown to what extent the Hunchag organization has been adopted by the Zeitounlis. At Suedia last summer the villagers drilled in uniform, wearing a cap, distinguished by a number of red crosses on a dark ground, and displaying a Hunchag flag, the main feature of which was also a red cross. Large quantities of arms were landed at Suedia, and forwarded to Aintab and Zeitoun, and empty bomb-shells, of which I have written in earlier reports, were loaded at Aintab.

The command of the expedition against Zeitoun having been intrusted to Mustafa Remzy Pasha, the Commandant of Aere, that officer arrived in Marash about the 5th November, and at the same time the Turks established an outpost on the River Jehan, about seven hours from Zeitoun.

Marash.

Marash stands about 2,000 feet above the sea, at the foot of a mountain called the Akhor-Dagh. It has a total population of 54,000, of whom 15,000 are Armenians, and the remainder (excepting only a handful of Jews and nondescripts) are Mussulmans. The latter are of Turkish origin, and fanatical. The town is commanded by a ruined citadel, which is now manned with artillery and garrisoned. The expeditionary force for Zeitoun is under canvas outside town.

Marash, owing to its proximity to Zeitoun, has been the scene of repeated massacres of a terrible nature. On Wednesday, the 23rd October, a quarrel occurred between an Armenian and a Turk, both of the lowest class, on which occasion the Turk was stabbed, and he died of his wounds on the following Friday morning. Just then another quarrel occurred between a Turk and an Armenian butcher in the market-place, when the Turk called the Moslems to his aid, and a fight ensued with sticks and knives. That night there was a riot at Karaman, a suburb in the west end of the town, when Garabed Agha Topalian, one of the most prominent, wealthy, and highly esteemed Protestants of Marash, met his death, and his body was horribly mutilated. In their efforts to restore order the authorities then, and in subsequent events, seemed to act wholly on the assumption that Christians were the only disturbers of the peace. The soldiers made a cruel use of their whips, and the prison was filled with Armenians. The excitement caused by this first massacre spread rapidly through the villages on the road to Aleppo, and it became an exceedingly dangerous thing for a Christian to travel alone. An Armenian gentleman employed as medical officer to the troops left Marash on the 27th October, two days afterwards, and reported that the road was thronged with people

hastening to Marash to share the plunder. Their general talk was that permission had come to kill the Giaours, and they were eager to be at the work. Isolated cases of murder now became frequent, especially at the mills on the wayside, and all of them are now deserted.

On the 15th November I received a cypher from Marash referring to this massacre. It stated that the results so far as known were 40 killed and about 300 wounded, of whom many would die; that twenty houses outside Karaman had been plundered, and four or five burned down. At that date all the churches were closed and all the shops. A general massacre of the Christians had taken place in the surrounding villages, especially those toward Zeitoun. A few days later I received a letter from the Armenian priest of Zeitoun, dated the 27th October, in which, after relating the events which had occurred there (described above), the writer stated that provisions were running short, that they would soon be in desperate straits, and begged for the intervention of our Government to save them from the massacre which would probably follow their surrender.

At the same time I had news that the Zeitounlis were raiding in every direction and no doubt collecting provisions. About the 12th November they attacked and burned Andrin, a group of villages to the north-west of Marash, and several Kurdish villages nearer that town, which now became the goal of hundreds of panic-stricken and destitute people, who crowded into the streets and constituted a fresh source of danger. Orders were sent from Aleppo to prevent the entry of these refugees by placing a cordon round the town.

Meanwhile, the attitude of the troops had become a very serious question. They were mostly Reserves drawn from the Aleppo Vilayet, who have left their wives and children in abject poverty. Ill-fed, ill-clothed, unaccustomed to discipline, and holding arms in their hands, what more natural than that they should revolt?

On the 18th November a horrible massacre took place; and the missionaries, in reporting the fact, state that it was perpetrated by the soldiers, but add the words, "with the evident approval of the Government."

It appears that on that day Marash was given up to pillage, and that an attack was made upon the American Mission. The Theological Seminary, Academy, and boarding-house were plundered, and the Seminary was burnt. Two of the Seminary students were shot, and one was killed. The missionaries wrote that they were unharmed, but had no sense of security.

Many hundreds, perhaps thousands, had been killed, and conflagrations had occurred in three Christian quarters. This was the message which I telegraphed to your Excellency on the 25th instant, with a request that it might be communicated to the American Minister, as the American Consul has no means of telegraphing to the Legation in cypher.

From other sources I learn that the refugees from outside, the Kurds, Turkomans, and Circassians, took part in the massacre.

The exact truth as to the extent of the slaughter will probably never be known, as none but Government officials could with safety go over the ground and count the dead; and none are likely to do it, or, doing it, to let the truth be known. The massacre ended towards evening, when the survivors barricaded themselves in their houses, where they still remain.

We are left to imagine the rest—the wounded lying uncared for, and the dead devoured by carrion, none venturing to remove them for fear of being fired upon from the adjoining houses.

On an uncertain date, but much earlier than that just described, there was another massacre in Marash. It was described to me by an Armenian muleteer, who arrived in Marash with biscuit for the troops a few hours before it occurred. His statement was confirmed by that of a Greek and a Turk who were with him at the time, and returned to Aleppo together, and they agree in saying that some forty Armenians at least were killed, and that after their bodies had remained exposed for three days they were buried together in a pit within the inclosure of the Armenian church.

I have received no confirmation of this occurrence from the missionaries, but it is quite possible that they sent me a cypher which has been intercepted.

Urfa.

This city is 11 hours or 126 miles north-east of Aleppo, beyond the Euphrates. It is inclosed by a massive wall in the form of an irregular triangle,

with a castle at the north-east angle, and it is surrounded by gardens watered by the Tzan Chai River. It has a population of about 32,000, of whom 8,000 are Armenians. Both the American Protestants and the Franciscans have Mission schools at Urfa. Disturbances took place in this town on the 27th and 28th October under the following circumstances:—An Armenian money-changer demanded payment of a debt from a Mussulman, of Beradjik, who murdered him in consequence. He went to the Armenian's house on the Saturday night, and called him out into the street, where he shot him. He was arrested, but on the following morning, when the Armenians, proceeding to church, saw the body of the murdered man lying before his doorway, they lost control over themselves, and rushed to the guard-house, dragged out the murderer, and lynched him.

A mob of Turks, Arabs, and Kurds, armed with knives and clubs, now invaded the Armenian quarter, and in the fight, which lasted throughout the day, about forty were killed and many more wounded. The loss of life was, under the circumstances, not considerable, but the whole town was given up to loot during Sunday and Monday. The Mutessarif was absent when the outbreak commenced, and only reached Urfa on Monday when the fighting was over.

There were only about forty soldiers in the town at the time, who, of course, were powerless against the mob, and looked on whilst the Kurds, Hamidié, and Circassians made a clean sweep of everything. More than 1,500 shops were pillaged.

The last news received from Urfa shows that the shops remain closed, and the Armenians remain shut up in their houses.

Aintab.

Aintab is 24 hours or 76 miles north of Aleppo, and resembles this city in the massive structure of its houses and khans, and in the aspect of the citadel at the west end of the town. The castle, though in an advanced stage of decay, is now mantled with guns, and garrisoned. A massacre of a very savage description occurred here on Friday, the 15th November.

I had greatly hoped that Aintab would have escaped this calamity, because it was generally believed that more reliance could be placed upon the self-control of the Mussulman inhabitants than is the case in Marash. But I think it probable that mischief was done among the Armenians by Aghassé, the Hunchag leader, who spent the months of August and September in Aintab, and that some of the younger Armenians may have from time to time betrayed themselves into acts provoking retaliation. It was, moreover, a terrible strain upon the self-control of a people so situated to witness the constant passage of troops through the city, followed by crowds of Mussulman women weeping and cursing the infidels: scenes which must infallibly have stirred up the fanaticism of the Mussulman inhabitants.

The outbreak originated, as usual, in a private quarrel; but the rapidity with which the fight became general, and the number of villagers from a distance who poured into the city at that moment, almost suggests that the attack had been planned beforehand.

About 200 are said to have been killed, and more wounded, while the city was pillaged, and fires broke out in several quarters. A quantity of dynamite exploded in the house of an Armenian, destroying the occupants and causing a conflagration. It is to be noted that some of the Moslem inhabitants behaved with great humanity in protecting Christians, and it is said that nearly 2,000 Armenians took refuge in their houses.

The city was full of strangers loaded with plunder; and to prevent their escape, orders were issued that, as there were not sufficient troops to form a cordon round the city, mounted patrols should be organized at all points where it was possible to find an exit. These arrangements were explained to me by his Excellency the Ferik, who informed me that two more battalions would soon be sent to Aintab.

His Excellency showed me a telegram which had been received from the Kaïmakam of Aintab, accusing the Armenians of having poisoned the water which supplies the city. He showed me at the same time the telegram which he had sent in reply, which instructed the Kaïmakam to ask Dr. Shepard and his assistants at Aintab College to examine the water; and if they reported that it had been poisoned, he would then give the matter his attention, but not otherwise. I do not

suppose that anything more will be heard from the Kaïmakam on the subject. He evidently did not realize that the management of affairs has, during the past fortnight, practically passed from the hands of the fanatical Vali, who has just been dismissed, into those of the Ferik.

Had the massacre of Aintab happened a month ago, this accusation would at once have been indorsed by the Vali, and telegraphed to the Palace.

This Kaïmakam, and practically all the Sub-Governors of the vilayet, have become unfit for their work at this critical time, because they have been the willing servants of the late Vali, and are incapable of treating the Armenians with justice. The prisons of Marash and Aintab are now crammed with Armenians, and there being no accommodation there, prisoners are now being forwarded to Aleppo.

Aleppo.

I pass on to a consideration of the measures which have been taken for the preservation of order in the vilayet, and especially in the city of Aleppo.

When the news of the earlier massacres at Marash and Urfa were reported at Constantinople orders were sent here that all arms in the possession of private persons should be collected. A descent was accordingly made upon the gunsmiths' shops in the city, and guns which are commonly used by gardeners and caretakers for the purpose of warning off smugglers were confiscated. This measure was enforced in the other towns of the vilayet; but everywhere much complaint was made that arms were taken from the Christians rather than from the Turks.

There was great uneasiness here while the Reserves were assembling outside the town, and many an unpleasant incident occurred which gave rise to panic. There was great difficulty in obtaining transport animals to accompany the troops, so that wherever it was possible to do so camels and horses were seized for the purpose. On two occasions caravans were stopped outside the town, and it was discovered that large quantities of revolvers and cartridges were concealed among the loads. One evening, when Edhem Pasha was at home conversing with his staff officer, some one rushed in with the news that several cases of Martini-Henry rifles had been seized outside the town, and that there was great confusion and fear of an outbreak. The Pasha mounted his horse, and accompanied only by three or four house servants and Refaat Bey, his staff officer, arrived on the scene to meet an excited mob of Arab men, women, and children, who had gathered together from the outlying quarter of the town, their number calculated at 6,000. What had been seized was in fact only some cheap sporting guns, which had been ordered from Damascus by a Christian gun-merchant in the city in the ordinary course of business, but it was of course useless to explain that to an infuriated mob. The women took the leading part in the demonstration, clapping their hands and shouting out curses on the Giaours, and insisting upon following the Pasha into the city to see the guns deposited at the Konak. One called out that arms were hidden in the Khan Saboon, another in the Khan Gumruk, and with every moment the mob increased. The Ferik had no arms with him, having forgotten to take his revolver, and the mob became very dangerous. So, bidding his staff officer run off and bring soldiers immediately, he remained parleying with the crowd, with great difficulty no doubt, as he could not speak Arabic. His great anxiety was that troops should arrive before he reached the city gate, for he knew that once the mob entered the city with the guns the whole Mussulman population would come out, and there would be serious trouble. Luckily troops were quickly found and brought on to the scene, with the result that the mob was dispersed. Edhem Pasha that night saved the town from a riot, and his conduct then and since has inspired the Christian population with confidence that so long as he remains in Aleppo we have a reasonable hope that all will be well.

Three days afterwards, in consequence of a dispute between a Christian tax-collector and a soldier, a Mussulman mob collected in the streets of Aleppo, armed with clubs and knives, shouting out "Death to the Christians," but nothing serious happened, thanks to the promptness with which the troops were called out. The guards were now doubled at the city gates, at all the guard-houses in the town, and in the suburb of Azizie, where the Russian and English Consulates are situated, and during many nights the Ferik himself patrolled the city until morning, thus instilling in the minds of all classes his determination to allow no breach of the peace. The Mukhtars of the city wards and the Religious Heads of sects were

assembled at the Konak, and charged under heavy penalties to keep order. Proclamations were made by crier in the streets, and public notice given to the Moslems, when at midday prayer, that they should not molest Christians. Within the last few days placards have been posted up in prominent parts of the city announcing that those who cause disturbance will be subject to martial law. Special arrangements have been made for the protection of the Consulates and of the Ottoman Bank.

Troops have arrived at Alexandretta from Tripoli of Barbary and the Vilayet of Aidin, and there will soon be a force of 50,000 men in the province.

Vilayet of Adana.

In a letter from Hadjin, dated the 10th November, the Rev. Mr. Martin reports that almost all the Christian villages within a radius of twelve hours from Hadjin had been sacked by Circassians. He mentions the following villages: Geokson, Kiriz, Dash Oloog, Koomloo, Khasta Khana, Shar, Kar Sorran, as being stripped of everything, and abandoned by the villagers.

In a letter written the following day Mr. Martin reports further that the village of Sharbazleen (?), three hours from Hadjin, had been attacked by a force of 2,000 Circassians and Turks, and the inhabitants massacred, and that he feared an attack upon the Mission.

I have since received a reassuring telegram, in which he informs me that a new Kaimakam having arrived, there was a greater feeling of security in the town.

Villages of Pyas.

Pyas is on the coast, four hours north-west of Alexandretta, and the scenes of disturbance have been the three villages of Tchouknerdziven, Uzurlu, and Ojaklu, near that town. The two last villages were attacked and destroyed by the Turks, and the villagers fled to Tchouknerdziven, where heavy fighting was reported on the 13th November. It continued apparently for several days, but, as I learn from Vice-Consul Catoni, the Armenians have laid down their arms and peace is restored. I have no information as to how this was brought about.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 783.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Aleppo, November 28, 1895.

Sir,

IN continuation of my Confidential despatch of the 24th instant, I have the honour to submit a further Report upon the recent disturbances at Aintab, Marash, and Zeitoun.

About a fortnight ago I had occasion to send one of the Consular cavasses (a Circassian) to the American missionaries at Aintab and Marash, and he has now returned, having been unable to communicate with the missionaries; but has brought back much interesting and, I think, reliable information.

The massacre at Aintab occurred on Saturday, the 16th, not Friday, the 15th instant, as reported. The cavass arrived in Aintab on the Friday evening, and the fight broke out at 8 o'clock on the following morning, and continued until 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

I conclude that the loss of life was much greater than at first estimated, for the fighting was exceptionally savage, guns, revolvers, knives, and even penknives being used. Great loss of life was caused by the explosion of bombs thrown from the windows of the Armenian houses, and especially from the house of a certain Babik Oghlou. This man kept a store of bomb-shells, dynamite, &c., in the adjoining house, which exploded the following night, killing the occupants. This incident has been already referred to as if it had occurred during the fight on

Saturday. From another Armenian house vitriol was squirted into the faces of people passing by, and the cavass saw two zaptiehs carried away with their faces practically destroyed.

As regards the statement that the water had been poisoned, the cavass states that in two or three quarters of the town there are open cisterns, supplied by water from the hills, and that when he went to one of these on Saturday he was warned by a zaptieh not to drink, and shown the carcasses of two dogs which had died immediately after drinking. On the following day he saw four dogs dead near another cistern, and saw two men removed to the hospital in a state of collapse. I concluded that those who were barbarous enough to throw vitriol and bomb-shells were also capable of this outrage.

In short, although the looting of the market was in great measure the work of Kurds, Arabs, and Turkomans from outside, the atrocities of the fight were committed by Armenians, who appear to have used every infernal device that is known in the annals of anarchy.

At one moment Aintab College was in great danger. It stands a little above the city, and the cavass tells me that he met a Yuzbashi with a party of soldiers running towards the College, and inquiring the reason, was told that the mob was coming up to attack the place, and that their orders were to protect the College by every means.

Immediately after the mob came in sight, and as they paid no attention to the summons of the Yuzbashi, he gave orders to the soldiers to fire. Three of those in the front rank were shot dead, and the crowd then retired.

The cavass proceeded to Marash on Thursday, the 21st instant, where he was again unable to communicate with the missionaries, and finally decided to destroy the letters which I had given to him.

He informs me that there are at the present moment four battalions in Marash, three at the Hamidié Kyuprusu, the first bridge on the River Jehan, and three at the second bridge, which was destroyed by the Zeitounlis some weeks ago, and which is apparently only four hours from Zeitoun.

Four battalions are employed in the neighbourhood of Andrin under the command of Colonel Ali Bey, lately Commander of the Desert in the Vilayet of Aleppo. Another battalion is distributed among the villages near Marash, and another was expected to arrive in Marash immediately. The direction of the campaign is in the hands of Circassian officers.

Edhem Pasha, the Ferik at Aleppo, is a Circassian, so also are Mustafa Remzi Pasha, the Ferik at Marash, and his staff, Major-Generals Said Pasha and Ziver Pasha.

A great many Circassians and Hamidiés arrived in Marash at the same time as my cavass with the object of offering their services to the Government. When they went before the Ferik to make their offer, the cavass, acting apparently under the belief that his identity was not known, went with them. He states that the Ferik received them with great kindness, but said that the Government had no need of their services, and begged them to return quietly home, as Marash was in a disturbed state, and if any outbreak occurred it would probably be said that they had been the cause of it. It appears that hundreds of Circassians from every part of the vilayet had been to Marash on the same errand, but their services had been refused.

The cause of the massacre at Marash on the 18th instant is stated to have been the exasperation produced in that city by the news that Andrin had been taken by the Zeitounlis. The people of Andrin were mostly Moslems employed in Marash, and these and the troops were the authors of the massacre. I have no description of the massacre from an eye-witness, but probably the Armenians made quite as desperate a resistance as at Aintab.

A large quantity of loot was recovered by the authorities, both at Marash and Aintab, and stored in the mosques, whence it is delivered over to the owners on receipt of proof.

The burial of the dead is undertaken by the Municipality. The burial party in the case of Armenians consists of a priest, a few leading Armenians, one or two officials, and an escort of soldiers, and a similar arrangement is made in the case of Mussulmans.

When the cavass returned to Aintab on the 26th all the dead had been removed, with the exception of one poor Jew, who apparently had no one to look after him. Three small churches were burnt at Marash during the massacre of

the 18th, and a Christian quarter below the citadel, known as Shekerli Deré, was completely destroyed by fire.

Zeitoun.

It appears that after the garrison of Zeitoun surrendered the prisoners, soldiers, and zaptiehs were stripped of their uniforms and finally set at liberty. A party of Zeitounlis then donned these uniforms, and disguised as a troop of Turkish soldiers proceeded to Andrin, which was immediately captured and burnt. On receiving news of the burning of Andrin, Ali Bey advanced in pursuit of the Zeitounlis and captured the villages of Boundúk and Jebeen, but on approaching Fernouz, which is a large village, very difficult of access, he found it necessary to halt and send to Marash for guns, which were sent to him on the 24th instant. In the meantime it appears that he was attacked by the Zeitounlis outside Fernouz and compelled to retreat in the direction of Hadjin.

I would point out that there is a delusion among the people that the operations of the Zeitounlis are directed by Englishmen. I hear that two men who speak English and wear European hats are in Fernouz at present. They are no doubt Armenian Hunchag agents, who purposely allow this impression to go abroad.

With regard to the information furnished by my cavass Mehemet, I think that the fact that he is a Circassian might convey the impression that his report is exaggerated. It is therefore right to state why I think him an honest and reliable witness. I have known him for eleven years, and before he entered my service he was with Sir Charles Wilson, Consul Richards, and Mr. Cameron. He is a man known very widely for his courage, truthfulness, and sound common sense, and, moreover, his statements, so far as they affect Aintab and Marash, are confined to what he has seen with his own eyes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

No. 784.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 927.)
My Lord,

Pera, December 13, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 926, forwarding a Report from Mr. Barnham of events which took place at Aintáb, in the Vilayet of Aleppo, on the 16th and 17th ultimo, I have the honour to state that Mr. Terrell, United States' Minister, has to-day shown me a Report from Mr. Sanders, an American missionary at Aintab, giving a favourable report of the protection afforded to the missionaries and to the college and girls' school at Aintab by the Turkish troops during the disturbances. He also speaks very highly of the conduct of two Mussulman Aghas in watching over their safety.

Mr. Sanders does not allude to the use of bombs and vitriol ascribed to the Armenians by Mr. Barnham's cavass. He estimates the dead as over 300 in number. Many of the wounded were brought to the American hospital, and were treated by the Mission doctors, of whom several are ladies.

The strong representations made by Mr. Terrell have produced a good result so far as the missionaries are concerned, and none of them have been injured during the massacres in the Asiatic provinces; but Mr. Terrell speaks of the conduct of the Aghas and soldiers at Aintab as the one bright spot in a terrible record of slaughter. He has expressed his acknowledgment to the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 785.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 928.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 13, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 872 of the 27th November, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, transmitting a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush reporting the recent attempt by Moslems to massacre Armenians in that town, and its prompt suppression by the Mutessarif.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 785.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir,

Erzeroum, November 25, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th instant, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson, reporting the attempt at a massacre of Armenians at Mush on the 15th instant, which was frustrated by the energetic and courageous conduct of Féham Pasha, the Mutessarif. I also hear that Brigadier-General Ahmed Pasha, the Military Commander, and the Mufti, acted well on that occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 785.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir,

Mush, November 16, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report that some of the lower Mussulmans started a massacre of the Armenians in this town yesterday morning. Thanks, however, to the prompt action of the authorities, and especially to the energy and personal courage of the Mutessarif, order was restored in little over half-an-hour.

The following account of the origin of the disturbance I have from an Armenian boy in my service, who was in the market at the time, and narrowly escaped being cut down. He and some thirty other Armenians were saved by a Turkish "han" keeper, Mourad by name, who took them in and boldly held the door against the mob. I caused the boy to repeat his statement to the Mufti when the latter called on me yesterday evening.

About 11 A.M. the sound of a pistol-shot was heard from the shop of an Armenian locksmith of rather bad character. It is said that the pistol went off by accident. It seems not improbable that it was a preconcerted signal, especially when it is remembered that it was Friday morning, and that this was, according to Mr. Knapp's account, exactly the manner in which the Bitlis massacre was started. Moreover, the man has been arrested, and is said to have confessed that he fired the pistol in obedience to the orders of certain Turks. However this may be, directly the shot was heard a crowd of armed Mussulmans rushed into the market, shooting and cutting down any Armenians they met. Luckily, the latter were on their guard, and comparatively few were in the streets. My servant saw three cut down: one by a Softa, who, after running his sword through the body, drank the blood, a second by a Turkish butcher, and a third by a young Turk. Then the soldiers came. The Mutessarif himself rode into the market and gave orders to the troops to shoot any man, Mussulman or Christian, who attacked a person or a shop, and the mob was dispersed. My servant then returned home, guarded by a zaptieh. Meanwhile, the riot had spread more or less all over the town, and shots were heard on every side.

Two Armenians running past my house fell, one shot, the other cut down. However, very shortly patrols appeared in every direction; the Mutessarif himself seemed to be everywhere, dispersing the rioters and reassuring the Armenians, and soon everything was quiet again.

Up to this evening six deaths are known to have resulted, and there are about forty wounded, most of them not seriously. They are all Armenians.

About twenty Mussulmans, including two zaptiehs, have been arrested for taking part in the riot, and the Government is making a strict inquiry.

Of the conduct of the Mutessarif I cannot speak too highly, and I trust that it will be recognized in the proper quarter. I was an eye-witness of his riding, attended only by one zaptieh, into a crowd of Softas and dispersing them with blows of his whip. He told the Armenians that he must be killed before they were. Undoubtedly, but for him, a repetition of the Bitlis affair, perhaps even on a more serious scale, would have occurred. As soon as order was restored he came and rested at my house, evidently very indignant at such an attempt having been made, the possibility of which, being newly arrived here, he had, in spite of warnings, refused to admit.

The measures taken by the military authorities to provide against such an emergency seem also to have been excellent. The soldiers were in the market in a very short time, and not more than twenty minutes had elapsed since the first shot before a guard was at my door and patrols everywhere.

I trust that this will have been a lesson to the evilly-disposed that the authorities do not intend to allow disorders here, and that no further attempt will be made.

The better class Mussulmans behaved very well in saving life, and I hope that an improvement in the relations between the Christian and Mussulman inhabitants may result from yesterday's experiences.

Immediately after the riot the Mutessarif took measures to inform the neighbouring villages of the true facts, in order to prevent excessive panic. An example of his prompt and wise conduct is that, through me, he begged the missionaries to write to Sasun and give the people there the true story, telling them to keep quiet and not fear. The messenger, an Armenian of Sasun, was sent off at once under the escort of two zaptiehs.

All has been quiet here to-day, though naturally there is great uneasiness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

P.S. *November* 20.—There has been no further attempt at disorder so far, but no shops are open, and there is considerable discontent among certain classes of the Mussulmans because the Mutessarif acted with such energy last Friday.

C. S. H.

No. 786.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 929.)
Constantinople, December 13, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's telegram No. 682 of the 15th November, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, transmitting a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, expressing satisfaction at the promise of the Sultan not to re-employ the three dismissed police officers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 786.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, November 25, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th instant, I have the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson, expressing satisfaction at the news, conveyed to him by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, that the three police officers at Mush, who had been discharged for misconduct and subsequently re-employed, would be again dismissed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 786.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Mush, November 17, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, it was with great satisfaction that I had the honour to receive last night a telegram from Mr. Herbert, informing me that the Sultan had promised him that the three ex-officers of police should not be re-employed.

The Mutessarif had previously stated to me that he had reinstated them in obedience to orders received, and that, far from this being done on his initiative, he had refused to employ them in this sandjak, and therefore they had been sent to Bitlis. He also promised me that Abdul Kader, of whose antecedents he had known nothing, should no longer remain at the head of the prison.

That Reshid and his colleagues should not be re-employed seems to me a matter of great importance, both on the general principle that no official dismissed for ill-conduct should receive another post, and specially because the dismissal of these three notorious evil-doers, of the rank of Captains, had produced a most excellent effect throughout this district, both on other Turkish officials and on the Christian population, and their reinstatement would have had had results proportionately great.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 787.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 930.)
Constantinople, December 13, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 900 of the 7th December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, forwarding a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, reporting a further attempt at disorders at Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 787.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, November 25, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th instant, I have the honour to send a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, reporting a further attempt at disorders at Bitlis on the 8th instant, and the arrest of several Armenians.

Mr. Hampson also calls attention to the destitute condition of the people, and mentions the desire of the American missionaries to leave Bitlis.

With regard to the suspicions, real or pretended, resting on the Rev. George Knapp, I asked Shakir Pasha what they were based on, and he told me that it was alleged that one of the Americans called "Mr. George" had supplied fire-arms to two or three Armenians. I suggested that if Mr. Knapp had really done so it was probably for the defence of himself and family in a moment of extreme danger, and before the authorities had taken their tardy steps to protect them, just in the same way that I had provided arms for the Armenian servants of this Consulate in anticipation of the disorders that took place here, and which they would have most certainly made use of if any assault had been made upon us by the Mussulman rabble.

His Excellency admitted the justness of my remarks, and said he would make inquiries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 787.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Mush, November 18, 1895.

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch of the 8th instant, I have the honour to report that further letters received from Bitlis shew that that city is still in a state of great insecurity. A further attempt at disorder was made on Friday, the 8th instant, but was suppressed by the authorities. Over 100 prominent Armenians are imprisoned, and the Government is trying to make them admit that the Christians attacked the mosques, and that Mr. Knapp was mixed up in the affair.

The surviving Armenians, both in the town and in the neighbouring villages, are reduced to absolute want. They have lost all their property and means of subsistence, and very few have any provision against the winter. Famine seems imminent.

A guard of soldiers is now stationed on the premises of the missionaries, and they appear safe against actual attack. However, both Mr. Knapp, in Bitlis, and Mr. Cole and Dr. Reynolds, who are still here, consider that the ladies and children, at all events, must leave Bitlis for the present. I therefore had the honour to telegraph on the 14th instant to Her Majesty's Embassy a message from them to the American Minister, stating their decision, requesting that measures should be taken for their safe escort to Van, and that, if possible, Mr. Hallward should himself go to Bitlis for that purpose. They also asked to be assured of the safety of their property and of the Protestant community in Bitlis after their departure.

They are very anxious that I should pay a visit to Bitlis, but I doubt if I should be justified in leaving Mush at present.

Mr. Cole and Dr. Reynolds have been kept in Mush by the serious indisposition of the latter. I hope, however, that they will be able to leave in a day or two, the Mutessarif having kindly placed his private carriage at the doctor's disposal. I have obtained for them an escort of four reliable zaptiehs.

The number of zaptiehs and soldiers in Mush at present is far too small for the requirements and gravity of the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 788.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 932.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 15, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on Thursday morning a panic occurred in Galata and Pera. It lasted in the latter place for about an hour, people flying along the streets to escape from the imaginary danger, and all the shops being at once closed. The most conflicting rumours were abroad, that a revolution had broken out in Galata owing to the arrival of the "stationnaires," and that there was firing in the streets; that an attack was to be made on the British Embassy, or that a demonstration was to be made at Yildiz.

It appears that the real origin of the panic was a quarrel between two Armenians in Stamboul, one of whom had brought an action for forgery against the other, who thereupon revenged himself by firing four shots from a revolver at his adversary. A policeman, with drawn sword, pursued the would-be assassin, and a *sauve qui peut* and general panic ensued. The Minister of Police took every means possible to allay the fears of the population, but it is said that, in Galata, shouts were at once raised telling the Armenians to close their shops, as the Turks had risen and were about to massacre them.

I have not heard of any lives lost, or of any damage done to property.

The Mutessarif of Pera, with an ingenuity which did credit to his imagination, caused a report to be circulated that a lion had escaped from a menagerie, and that some shots which were fired at him had caused the panic.

Some people maintain that it was deliberately caused by the police; others that its premature occurrence prevented a rising of the Softas, which had been prepared; but these reports do not appear to have any foundation, and only shew the excited state of the inhabitants, which disposes them to listen to any rumour, however improbable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 789.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 933.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 15, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a summary of an article which appeared in the "Sabah" on the 13th instant denying the rumours which are current as to the arrival of the foreign fleets at Constantinople, and giving an explanation of the demand of the Powers for a second "stationnaire."

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 789.

Extract from the "Sabah" of December 13, 1895.

(Translation.)

WE much regret the baseless and improbable rumours which find an echo in the foreign press and in public gossip. Thus, a statement has lately been current to the effect that the fleets of the Powers were coming to Constantinople. Fortunately, perfect order and tranquillity prevail not only at the capital, but also throughout the whole of the Ottoman dominions. Such a step would, therefore, have no object, nor, indeed, has the rumour any foundation, save the fact that the Powers have applied for permission for a second "stationnaire" each to be allowed to come, as their vessels may, in case of necessity, go on duty in the Danube. Under these circumstances, the Imperial Government has acceded to their request.

No. 790.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 23.*)

(No. 934.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 15, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a Report, drawn up by Mr. Acting Consul Fontana, on the recent massacre at Marsovan.

Mr. Fontana, in his covering despatch, calls attention to the part taken by the soldiers in the massacre, and attributes the fact that no Armenians were killed at the village of Hadji-keui to the absence of troops in that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 790.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir,

Angora, December 4, 1895.

HAVING received two detailed accounts of the recent massacre at Marsovan from different sources in that town, which tally in all the main facts, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, a Report setting forth the facts in question. And I would venture to draw your Excellency's attention to the peculiar action of the Kaïmakam before the disturbance took place, and to the participation of the troops in the slaughter.

The Armenians in two villages, Hadji-Keui and Hazla, situated at some distance from Marsovan, suffered upon the same day as their co-religionists in that town.

In Hadji-Keui 300 shops were looted, but no one was killed, as there appear to have been no troops stationed there. At Hazla fifteen Armenian families were massacred, and their possessions were divided among the "true believers."

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 790.

Report on the Disturbance at Marsovan.

SHORTLY before the disturbance took place the troops in the town had been reinforced by 1,000 men. Two or three days, however, before the massacre, which occurred on Friday, the 15th November, the Turks had beaten several Armenians, and had killed a man named Kanjabashian. The Armenians were consequently in great fear, and, upon Thursday, the 14th November, a Gregorian priest went to the Kaïmakam and informed him of the dread prevailing among the Armenians, and of their intention to close their shops the following day, but the Kaïmakam assured him that nothing would occur.

The next morning Dr. Tracey, of the American College, called upon the Kaïmakam, who said that nothing would happen to the College, though "he did not know about the town." When the Turks went to their mosques the Armenians mostly shut their shops; the Kaïmakam thereupon sent Tewfik Bey to remonstrate with them, and shortly afterwards proceeded to the market in person, and did his best to persuade the people to reopen their shops. Among those who obeyed were Fenerjian Melkon Aga and Setenjian Nishan, and these were among the first to be killed.

At 7 o'clock Turkish—about noon—a Turk rushed into the Pasha Jami Mosque shouting that the Armenian Committee were advancing to the attack. The Mussulmans rushed from the mosques, and, at the same time, just as if a signal had been given, the villagers swarmed into the town from the surrounding country, and the whole mass bore down upon the market-place with shouts of "Kill the

Kiafir, loot his goods." The soldiers joined in the attack, and assisted the mob to dispatch the Armenians. The whole market was pillaged with the exception of three shops belonging to Greek Rayahs, the only Greeks in the market, which were protected by the troops. Men and women were killed like sheep after refusing to accept the Mahommedan faith, which was offered them as their only alternative. The doors of closed shops were broken in, the inmates murdered, and the wares dragged out and carried off. Even the iron doors of the Bedestan, or covered bazaar, were smashed with axes, and the whole of it pillaged—"not a needle was left." A young Turk of rank was seen meanwhile encouraging the rabble, and shouting to them to make the most of their time.

At nightfall the soldiers sent the people to their homes, there being nothing more to plunder. The market was left reeking with blood, and strewn with the bodies of men and women stripped to the skin; a cartload of bodies, which were subsequently stripped by the soldiery, remained all night at Kirishhana, unwatched and unguarded from the dogs.

Among the killed were Professor Thomaian's sister, and her son Carakin. The Professor's brother, Kirkor, however, escaped after hiding three days in a corn store. Two hundred dead had, up to the 23rd ultimo, been buried by the Armenian priests. Between 300 and 400 others are missing, excluding the wounded. Three-fourths of the Armenian population are ruined. Many passed days in hiding, without food. The distress prevailing among them is terrible.

Fifty Armenians took refuge in Tashkban, where they discovered a Turk; they disarmed him, and when the massacre was over, quietly handed him over to the Kaïmakam.

(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 791.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 23.*)

(No. 935.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 15, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 910 of the 10th December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, forwarding two despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, reporting Kurdish raids on the reconstituted villages in the Sasun and Talori districts, and suggesting the formation of an armed force of Armenians, under Turkish officers, for protection against the Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 791.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir,

Erzeroum, November 25, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit a copy of two despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, reporting Kurdish raids on the reconstituted villages in the Sasun and Talori districts, and suggesting the formation of an armed force of Armenians, under Turkish officers, to protect themselves against the Kurds.

In answer to your Excellency's telegram of yesterday on this subject, I replied to-day that I did not consider the plan feasible at the present moment.

Owing to the exaggerated fears, real or pretended, of the Government, as evinced in their mode of treating the Armenians in connection with the disorders in these regions, it would be perfectly useless even hinting at the idea to Shakir Pasha just now. I shall, however, bear the matter in mind, and, if I see the slightest chance of its being favourably considered later on, I shall not fail to bring it forward.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH

Inclosure 2 in No. 791.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Mush, November 19, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, I regret to inform you that some 500 Kurds from the south, led by the notorious Suleiman of Sindah, have entirely pillaged Ishkentsor, have carried off all the grain, clothing, &c., provided for the inhabitants from the relief funds, and now occupy the village, from which the Armenians have fled. The Kurds are threatening the whole Talori district, the Mutessarif of Guendj having apparently taken no measures for its protection.

The Mutessarif of Mush has sent a detachment of soldiers to Sasun, and promises to send more as soon as possible. I hope, therefore, that the villages in that region may be saved from the ravages of the Kurds.

I had the honour to telegraph as above to Her Majesty's Embassy on the 17th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 791.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Mush, November 20, 1895.

Sir,

APART from the present general crisis, the great difficulty in this vilayet appears to me to be the question of keeping in order the Kurds who inhabit the mountain districts of Kurdish Sasun and Guendj, as far to the south as Diarbekir.

Would it not be practicable to form a corps of mountain police from the Christian population of Sasun and Talori, under reliable Turkish officers, whose duty should be to prevent Kurdish raids and to watch their migrations? If this were possible, I am convinced that these fine mountaineers, properly armed, would form a most effective check against the Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 792.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 936.)

Constantinople, December 15, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 899 of the 7th December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty Consul acting at Erzeroum, reporting Kurdish raids in the vicinity of Van, and their alleged instigation by the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 792.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, November 26, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th instant, I have the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, giving further details about Kurdish raids on Armenian villages of that vilayet, and reporting on the uneasiness existing in that town.

In compliance with your Excellency's telegraphic instructions of the 23rd instant, I immediately communicated the information therein contained to Shakir Pasha, who was not aware of the situation as reported by Mr. Vice-Consul Hallward. His Excellency at once telegraphed to Van, and took measures to provide further assistance if asked for. He has received two telegrams, which he showed me yesterday, and they fully corroborated the information contained in Mr. Hallward's despatches as to the occurrences in the outlying districts, but the last telegram received gives assurances of tranquillity in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, and does not express any special fear of danger to the town, or urge the insufficiency of the forces at the disposal of the Vali, who stated, however, that things were bad in the Hekkiari, and that, owing to the incursions of Kurds from Persia, he had made a demand that the Persian Ambassador should be requested to have their passage across the frontier stopped.

I telegraphed to your Excellency in the above sense last night.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 792.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Cumberbatch.

Van, November 20, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report that the Kurds have continued to plunder Armenian villages, practically unchecked, up to date. I am told by the Patriarch's representative that about 160 villages have been sacked and seventy men killed in the last three weeks in this province, exclusive of Hekkiari, where I hear things have been still worse, more men having been killed, but I have no accurate information from that region.

To show the impunity with which the Kurds have acted, I may mention that they attacked the village of Lamasguird, which is at the east end of the Van plain, about 4 miles from the town, four times last week, carrying off large quantities of property each time. At the village of Miklunir, 8 miles from here, six men were killed, and from some villages, such as Bogazkessen, Hazira, Doni, &c., the women and children flew to the mountains and other villages, and must have suffered greatly from cold and privation, as there was a heavy snow-storm on the 18th instant.

Small detachments of troops have been sent to various villages near here, and it is said that they have orders to shoot the Kurds if necessary, but I have not yet heard of any case of Kurds being attacked by troops, and so far one Kurd has been imprisoned here, otherwise nothing whatever has been done to them.

Two things are now chiefly feared: first, that the Kurds, seeing the impunity they enjoy, will proceed to a general massacre of Christians; and secondly (a more certain danger), that, thousands of the villagers being deprived of the means of existence, will die of cold and starvation, or else of some disease which may break out among those who are crowded together in the villages where they have taken refuge.

This extraordinary outbreak on the part of the Kurds is generally attributed to the instigation of some influential personage. Many think it is due to Shakir Pasha. It has in any case followed suspiciously near to the latter's visit to Bayazid, but whether it is Shakir Pasha or any one else who is immediately responsible, the ultimate responsibility undoubtedly lies with the Turkish Government, which has encouraged the Kurds for some time past to plunder the Christians, and has dealt out rank and honours to those who took the most prominent part in such outrages.

Great fear still exists in the town. Nearly all the schools are closed, and most of the shops in the bazaars are also closed. As the population are convinced that the Government are at the bottom of the disturbances that have occurred in Erzeroum and Bitlis, and the surrounding districts, it is natural that they should be uneasy about Van.

I sincerely hope that some means may be found before long to relieve the present intolerable situation, which at present looks as if it might continue

indefinitely, in view of the unwillingness of the Government to take any action against the Kurds. All talk about reforms is futile until serious action is taken in that direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 792.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, November 26, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to the inclosure in my preceding despatch of this day's date, I cannot let Mr. Vice-Consul Hallward's allusion to the accusation against Shakir Pasha as the instigator of the Kurdish raids pass by without observing that the allegation, if founded only on the opinions of Armenians, as I expect it is, must be received with caution.

The conduct of his Excellency ever since he has been in these parts, and especially on his visits to Bayazid and Khinis, induces me to disbelieve the accusation. It is my opinion that the Kurds simply took advantage of the disorders in the towns to carry out on a much larger scale than usual, and with the greatest impunity, deeds which they have always been but too disposed to perpetrate. In certain districts the injudicious conduct of the authorities encouraged them in the belief that they were pleasing the Sultan while benefiting themselves, but, as far as I know, there is no proof of direct Government instigation, as is generally, and perhaps naturally, insisted upon by Armenians and their friends, both as regards the Kurdish raids and the massacres in the towns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 793.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 937.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 15, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, reporting an attempt at a renewal of disorders in Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 793.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, November 27, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to the second paragraph of my telegram of the 25th instant, I have the honour to report that an attempt by some Mussulman ruffians at further disorders took place here last Monday morning, causing a panic among the Armenians, of whom seven were killed and thirteen wounded, in various parts of the town. Two married women who were expecting their confinement died from the effects of fright, and six men are missing.

On seeing Armenians, who had gone to their shops or to the places of business, hurrying to their houses, I went out to try and calm them, thinking that they were impelled by some false alarm in connection with exaggerated reports that had been spread concerning the arrests that the authorities intended commencing, though I had an hour previously received intimation that there was something astir among the Turks.

Not succeeding in reassuring the panic-stricken Armenians who commenced crowding into the Consulates and public buildings, I proceeded to the spot where it was said the police had had to use force in stopping a quarrel between two or three Armenians and Turks. I found that the few Armenian shops that had been reopened in the streets I passed through had been abandoned, and that the Mussulman shopkeepers were hurriedly closing theirs. Troops were being picketed at street corners to prevent Mussulman gatherings. All I could then learn was that when the police interfered in the quarrel the fellows fled, and that this gave rise to the panic in that quarter which spread all over the town. Some said that two Tobacco Régie "coldjis" (guards), chasing a smuggler, caused the alarm; but, at the same time, I learnt that some Armenians had been killed and others wounded further up the town, and as these incidents could not be connected with the quarrel (or the pursuit), I continued in that direction, to find that the Vali and Shakir Pasha, as well as several superior officers, had arrived on the spot and had succeeded in stopping further attacks on Armenians. Several Turks were caught, and three of them, who had been arrested in my presence, were bastinadoed that afternoon for shouting with a view to attracting others.

A Turk, who deliberately attacked and fatally wounded a villager in the market, was also arrested. Near this Consulate an Armenian was stabbed by a soldier not on duty, and there were several similar cases.

These facts show unfortunately that the effervescence among the lower classes of Mussulmans has not calmed down, and the result has been to destroy all the work of the authorities, aided by my colleagues and myself, to calm the fears of the Armenians and to encourage them to resume the usual occupations; on the other hand, it has afforded the authorities an opportunity of proving their determination to prevent, to the best of their ability, any further disorders on the part of the Mussulmans, and they will still further restore the lost confidence if they are permitted to mete out the severest punishment to the culprits arrested on Monday, and to some of those who took part in the disorders of the 30th and 31st ultimo at Erzeroum and at other places, and to disarm the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 794.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 938.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 15, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 902 of the 7th December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Kharput respecting the safety of the American missionaries in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 794.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir,

Erzeroum, November 28, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith the substance of an official telegram from Kharput, received yesterday, in answer to inquiries made at my request as to the safety of the American missionaries in that town, as no communication has reached me from that place since the disorders occurred there.

I gather from this message that none of them have lost their lives.

Before the next mail leaves this I hope to get fuller details of the events there, and perhaps at Diarbekir and Arabkir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 794.

Official Telegram from Kharput.

Kharput, November 27, 1895.

NOTWITHSTANDING the efforts of two companies of soldiers to prevent it, the Kurds forced an entrance into the town and set fire to some Armenian houses in the quarter called Shahrouz (Mahalleh) where the Americans live. The soldiers had to deal with the conflagration on the one side and the rioters on the other. Owing to lack of water the fire spread to Mr. Gates' house, part of which was burnt, as well as some of the other buildings belonging to the American Mission.

One company of soldiers has been told off for the protection of the missionaries and the Catholic priests.

No. 795.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 939. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 15, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting on the state of feeling in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 795.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Damascus, December* 3, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that, in spite of many rumours and considerable disquietude evinced by foreign subjects, the internal condition of the city of Damascus is fairly satisfactory. Stringent orders have been sent to the Governor-General to repress any disorders, especially between Moslems and Christians, and such orders, when intended seriously, are always effective.

At present, therefore, the outlook is favourable, but some of the British missionaries are seriously alarmed, and have appealed to me to know whether I consider it necessary for them to take any steps to place themselves and their families in safety. I have replied that I must decline to take the responsibility of asserting that there is absolutely no cause for alarm, but that as far as I am able to judge there is at present no need to set an example of flight.

At the same time I cannot disguise from myself that there are one or two elements in the situation which are calculated to inspire some uneasiness with regard to the future. The number of troops which have been dispatched to Damascus, and the levies of Redifs, who are less accustomed to discipline, constitute a certain danger from the fact that they are ill-clothed, worse fed, and not lodged at all.

The authorities are in such straits for money to provide the necessary stores that they will hardly be able to effect an improvement in this respect, and in consequence there is fear that on the return of the troops they may prove impossible to control.

Secondly, the name of England is in such odium in this district that in case of any uprising it is more than probable that Englishmen and their property would suffer first. I was conversing on this subject lately with a Turkish General, whose name was formerly prominently before the world, and he gave it as his opinion that the intense unpopularity of England at this time is due, firstly, to the ignorance which is so sedulously fostered by the Ottoman Government; secondly, to the evil

effects of certain newspapers whose tone is most hostile to us—notably the Egyptian papers "Nile Felah" and "El Ahram;" and, thirdly, to the resentment the Moslems feel on account of the interference of our Government on behalf of the Armenians, whom the Ottomans consider as beneath contempt. He added, however, that if the present crisis resulted in a change of Rulers, and of the restoration of the Constitution, which is in abeyance, the revulsion of feeling would be extraordinary.

In view of the above facts I venture to request your Excellency to give me early information of any change in the position of affairs at Constantinople which might be likely to affect us here, as we are absolutely unable to obtain any real knowledge of what is passing till it is too late to be of use.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 796.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 940.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 15, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus respecting the troops to be employed in the campaign in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 796.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Damascus, December* 4, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report that the expedition to the Hauran was, according to the original project, to consist of fourteen battalions of Nizams, ten battalions of Redifs, three regiments of cavalry, and four battalions of artillery of four guns each, and eight mountain guns. This number has now been modified, and has been reduced to eleven battalions of Nizams, of which five are Albanian, eight battalions of Redifs, of which one is Albanian, two regiments of cavalry, two batteries of artillery of four guns each, and eight mountain guns.

Besides these troops there are five Redif battalions stationed at Catana, Sassa, Mardj Ayoun, Rasheya, and Haskeya respectively.

The head-quarter camp is at Sheikh Meskin, a place which is situated on the line of the Mezerib Railway about 50 miles from Damascus. The rest of the troops are stationed at Bosra-el-Harir, Brak, Eski Sham, and Mismieh, all in the neighbourhood of the Jebel Druse, but they are moved so frequently that it is impossible to designate the number in each place with exactitude.

There remain five battalions in Damascus, of which three are regulars and two Redifs, and one regiment of cavalry.

I may add that of the sixty-three battalions of Redifs lately called up in the district of the Vth Army Corps, twenty-seven joined the Zeitoun force, and, in addition, four regular battalions have been dispatched thither.

Each battalion is nominally of the strength of 800 men, but desertions were so frequent that, on an average, each battalion will not number more than 750. From one Damascus battalion there were 200 deserters.

There were no stores of any kind in the Redif depôt, no uniforms, great-coats, boots, or any other necessaries, the result being that the troops have left Damascus totally unfitted to undertake a serious campaign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 797.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 944.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 15, 1895

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, giving details of fighting in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 797.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Damascus, December* 4, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that on Saturday last the Circassian irregulars who were semi-officially detached to guard the Kuneitra district attacked the village of Hina and killed a certain number of Druses. The Druses then, as report has it, attacked the Circassians, who numbered 1,500 men, and who were aided by a small force of Kurd gendarmes and a large body of Bedouins, at Mansourah, a village near Kuneitra.

In the fight that ensued the Druses were defeated, and lost a number variously estimated at 150 to 300 men. The Circassians lost their leader, Ahmed Bey, and thirty men; besides these some twenty gendarmes and fifty Bedouins fell.

Memdouh Pasha, who has lately arrived from Constantinople to take command, has, I learn, been superseded, and is second to Edhem Pasha. The former, however, left Sheikh Meskin, his head-quarters, immediately on receiving news of the battle, and on his arrival occupied Mejdel-es-Shems with little or no fighting. Mejdel is the principal Druse village in the Kuneitra district.

The details given above will probably require some modification when reliable news reaches me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 798.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 943.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 15, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 522 of the 23rd October, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a further despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Consul Alban respecting the pretended attempts to secure the authors of the outrage on the Consuls at Jeddah.

From Mr. Alban's despatch it would appear that no progress whatever has been made towards satisfying the demands of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 798.

Acting Consul Alban to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Jeddah, November* 25, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report that since that date ten more Bedouins of the Lehiani and Beni Jabir sub-divisions of the Harb tribe have been arrested and imprisoned here.

The inhabitants of Rabuk, about 80 miles distant from Jeddah, who are for the most part Bedouins, recently petitioned the Grand Shereef to allow them to purchase from Jeddah a certain quantity of wheat. His Highness, however, refused to do so. The Bedouins of that neighbourhood are much irritated at the recent arrests, and have, it is said, threatened to take the Quarantine Agent (a Turk) and the small Turkish guard at Rabuk as hostages for their fellow-tribesmen who have been arrested.

I am informed, on what appears to be good authority, that the Grand Shereef, at one of his recent Friday receptions, informed the Cadi, Muftis, Imams, and Shebis (or keepers of the keys of the Caaba) that he was drawing up a Report to the Porte to the effect that the two principal assassins of the late Dr. Abdur Razzack were dead, and the rest had fled to the mountains, where it was impossible to secure them. He is said to have requested them to make a Report in the same sense, but I have not yet heard whether they have done so. My authority for this is a letter addressed by one of those who were present to the Dragoman of the Dutch Consulate, with whom he is frequently in communication on matters relating to Dutch pilgrims.

I need not inform your Excellency that any such Report as that said to be meditated by the Grand Shereef would be perfectly untrue, the alleged assassins being alive, and at no great distance from Medina. When I last heard of them they were at a place called Faraa, between Rabuk and Medina, but not on the Medina road.

I have nothing to add to the remarks contained in my despatch above mentioned, except that the recent arrests do not appear to have advanced matters in the slightest degree, that the Grand Shereef's object is evidently to gain time, and that he is thoroughly insincere in his pretended attempts to secure the arrest of the assassins.

The Turkish transport "Soatri," with 1,100 troops on board, arrived here from Suez on the 21st instant, and left on the 23rd instant for Hodeidah without landing any troops here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 799.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 945.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 15, 1895.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 770 of the 5th December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout respecting the defeat of the Druses at Mejd-el-Shems.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 799.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Beyrout, December* 6, 1895.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that since the dispatch of troops to the Hauran the Druses of Mount Hermon and the neighbouring district, fearing an attack from the Circassians and Kurds, had concentrated at Mejd-el-Shems.

The official account states that the Druses were the aggressors in the late encounter, and the first to fire on the troops, who had placed themselves between the contending parties with the view of preventing a conflict.

The Druses numbered about 1,500, but were unable to stand against the superior weapons of the Circassians, and lost many lives.

The proximity of Mejd-el-Shems to the Lebanon, and the appeals to all Druses for aid, caused considerable excitement in the Shouf.

Several thousand would have joined their kinsmen if it had not been for the prompt and decisive action of the Governor-General, Naoum Pasha, who thereby suppressed the agitation.

The Druse Chiefs of the Lebanon have set aside party strifes during these events, and are all using their influence for the maintenance of order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 800.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 947.)
Constantinople, December 15, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, transmitting an account of the recent massacre of Armenians at Gurun, in the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 800.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Angora, December 6, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, the substance of a Report I have received from a presumably trustworthy source at Gurun, in the Vilayet of Sivas, upon the recent massacre of Armenians in that town by Turks, Kurds, and Circassians.

My correspondent concludes his account of the sufferings of the Gurun Armenians by writing:—

"Thus far we have been devoured by fire and sword; what is left of us will be devoured by famine."

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 800.

Substance of Report respecting the Massacre at Gurun.

TOWARDS the middle of November thousands of Turks, Kurds, and Circassians from the villages of Azizié, Darenté, Kangal, and Albistan, after burning the Armenian villages of Manjillik, Darenté, Kasar, and Ashut [?], in the neighbourhood of Gurun, and slaughtering the inhabitants, attacked the town of Gurun itself. They swept through the Armenian quarter like a flood, shouting, "Our Padishah wills it." They broke into the houses, killed the men, and outraged the young women and girls. They cut open mothers with child, and tossed little children from knife to knife. After killing the people and plundering their all, the rabble set fire to the houses; old men and children, who had been hidden, perished in the flames.

There were 2,000 Armenian families in Gurun previous to the massacre; of these, 500 in all now remain. The dead lay about in heaps for days poisoning the air; there was no possibility of interring them.

The majority of the survivors are homeless and penniless; famine is staring them in the face; they are begging their bread.

(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

No. 801.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 948.)
Constantinople, December 15, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, forwarding news from Mosul, and reporting the conduct of the Vali of that province with reference to the Armenian question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 801.

Consul-General Mockler to Sir P. Currie.

Bagdad, November 16, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour very respectfully to forward, for your Excellency's information, copy, in translation, of a news-letter, dated the 29th ultimo, from Mr. Rassam, British Consular Agent at Mosul, together with copy, in Turkish and translation, of the paragraph in the "Mosul" newspaper referred to in such news-letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. MOCKLER, *Colonel.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 801.

Mr. Rassam to Consul-General Mockler.

(Extract.)
Mosul, October 29, 1895.

ON Friday last his Excellency Saleh Pasha, the Vali, communicated to the head clergy a telegram which he had received from the Grand Vizier, contradicting rumours spread by the Armenians about the reforms which have been decided upon to be carried out, which telegram is published in the paper "Mosul," of which I herewith submit a copy of same for your information. His Excellency the Vali on the morning of the same day sent away as exiles to the Vilayet of Conea the sons of Kurha, the notorious ruffian, as also Naamat-Ullah Hanna Bunni to Aleppo, for this man has been found to have committed adultery with the wife of a Mulazim (Lieutenant) in the Turkish army; the proceedings adopted have been under orders obtained from the Porte, but the Patriarch of the Syrian Catholics has been exceedingly aggrieved at the Vali's proceedings in the matter, and more so for his having mentioned in his letter to the Vizier that the man in question was the nephew of the Patriarch, instead of describing him by his father's name. The Patriarch, therefore, intends to make a complaint against the Vali, and institute a suit for libel against him.

About a fortnight ago, when a caravan of Christians of the district of Tal, a dependency of the Government of Julamirg, was going to Amadieh, it was attacked at a place about an hour and a-half from Amadieh by twenty-five men from the followers of Fatah Agha, of Zibar, the Kurdish rebel, who plundered twenty-four mules and 24 Turkish liras, with several articles; they killed one man named Dawood, and wounded three named Rabbo, Winan, and Fito. This occurred below the village Khamria, a dependency of the district of Amadieh; these rebels passed to Zibar, taking with them what they had plundered. The party so plundered went to Amadieh, and reported to the Kaimakam what had befallen them, who, having declared his inability to give them any assistance, directed them to go to Mosul and report their case there; so two of the party named Abdal and Khoshaba arrived here on Saturday last. On relating to me what had happened to their caravan, and I finding I was unable to assist them in the way they wished, they submitted a Petition to his Excellency the Vali, but I have not as yet learnt what answer has been given them, or what steps have been proposed to be taken in the matter.

Inclosure 3 in No. 801.

Extract from the "Mosul" of October 24, 1895.

(Translation.)

IT has come to our notice that the Armenians are spreading rumours contrary to facts in connection with the reforms decided upon to be carried out in certain vilayets. The true state of the matter is therefore herewith explained: that the measures adopted with respect to reforms does not concern Armenians only, but being with the object of establishing conformity in the Vilayets of Van, Mamooret-al-Aziz, Erzeroum, Bitlis, Diarbekir, and Sivas, with the rules and regulations set down in the Dastoor (Code), as well as with the Ordinances and

beneficial clauses given in the Hatti-humayoun of Gulkhanah, and the High Firman respecting reforms, the said measures comprehend all subjects of the Imperial Government, whether Moslem or non-Moslem, and that preparation is being made to bring about conformity with this, and make it common in all other vilayets also, according to their local requirements.

Inclosure 4 in No. 801.

Consul-General Mockler to Sir P. Currie.

Baghdad, November 18, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour very respectfully to forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, copy of an interesting despatch, dated the 9th instant, from Mr. Rassam, British Consular Agent at Mosul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. MOCKLER, *Colonel.*

Inclosure 5 in No. 801.

Mr. Rassam to Consul-General Mockler.

Mosul, November 9, 1895.

(Translation.)

HIS Excellency Saleh Pasha, our Vali, seeing the great uneasiness among the Mahommedans of this town owing to the frightful rumours spread and great fights which have lately taken place between the Mahommedans and Armenians at Trebizond and Bitlis, &c., in Armenia, as well as at Diarbekir, found it necessary to call a general meeting the day before yesterday, composed of the Ulema and Notables of the Mahommedans and the Clerical Heads of the Christian communities and Jews, with their principal persons, and gave instructions to both the latter communities to go on friendly and harmoniously, and to the Mahommedans he threatened by severe punishment, banishment, and death if they made the least movement against the Christians, and gave assurances to the latter and Jews to feel themselves safe from any violence on the part of the Mahommedans; but, at the same time, his Excellency added to his Address allusions to villainous seditions and baseness of Armenians in revolting against their Government and its officers with the intention of independence, in spite of the favours shown them, more than any of the other Christian communities, and the elevation of a portion of them to high offices and dignities, and he publicly explained to all that it was the British Government which encouraged the Armenians so to act, in order that the Ottoman Government may be occupied with its subjects and pass over the question of restitution of the Island of Cyprus and the evacuation of Egypt by their troops.

The news circulated here states that more than 5,000 Christians were killed at Diarbekir, their wives driven away, their properties plundered, and five churches belonging to them were pulled down, plundered, and burnt, and it is said the Christians living in the surrounding villages were all killed by the Kurdish tribes, and that such calamities have also befallen the Armenians of Bitlis, Sivas, Trebizond, and Amasia, and even the Christians of Saarat; but the local authorities always spread the rumour that it is the Armenians who commence attacking the Mahommedans and Government officers, so much so that at Diarbekir they made an attack upon a mosque and assaulted the Mahommedans who had assembled there at the time of the midday prayers on Friday, the 1st instant. As for our town, although security is felt, for there are no more than a few Armenians, but fear is entertained with regard to the Christian villages around it, and the more so about those living in the mountains, for they are unsafe. If the Kurdish tribes rise in hostility against them they can exterminate them altogether in one day, and there are no troops there to prevent such acts.

No. 802.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 950.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 15, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, transmitting a Report from the British Consular Agent at Samsoun on the massacres at Amassia and Marsovan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 802.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, December* 2, 1895.

ON the 21st ultimo I informed the Embassy by wire that, according to a telegram, in private code, received by me from our Consular Agent at Samsoun, 1,000 Christians had been killed at and around Amassia.

On the 24th ultimo I further telegraphed, as information received from the same source and in a similar manner, the massacre of about 500 Armenians in the town of Marsovan.

I have now the honour to annex herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. de Cortanze relating to these sad events in the Sivas Vilayet.

I have, &c
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 802.

Mr. de Cortanze to Consul Longworth.

M. le Consul, *Samsoun, le* 27 *Novembre*, 1895.

JE viens de recevoir de source certaine quelques renseignements sur les événements de Merzifoun.

Le 3 (15) courant la ville était parfaitement tranquille; rien ne pouvait laisser prévoir une émeute quelconque pour ce jour là, pas plus que pour tout autre, car, chose remarquable, cette ville, qui a été une des plus éprouvées dans le temps par la persécution des Turcs, était très calme depuis quelques mois, tous les Arméniens qui s'étaient occupés de politique ayant été soit exilés soit tués dans les diverses échauffourées, soit encore partis volontairement.

Lorsqu'à 2 heures de l'après-midi de ce même jour, tout-à-coup, divers coups de feu ont retenti dans les principales rues et une foule de forcenés se sont jetés sur tous les passants Arméniens ou supposés tels, en les tuant soit par des armes à feu soit à l'arme blanche. Tous les boutiquiers qui ne sont pas parvenus à fermer à temps leurs magasins, ont été égorgés sur leurs comptoirs et leurs boutiques livrés au pillage. Les portes de plusieurs magasins ont été défoncées et les magasins livrés au pillage. Quelques imprudents croyant pouvoir avoir confiance dans les soldats se sont jetés dans leurs bras et ont été égorgés sans pitié: ces mêmes soldats prenaient ensuite part au pillage.

Dans quelques maisons il s'est produit de réelles atrocités et de barbaries inouïes; des bandes de forcenés ont violé des femmes et des enfants et les ont tués ensuite.

Pendant ce temps les autorités assemblées en toute hâte discutaient gravement sur les mesures à prendre pour rétablir l'ordre, mais ne faisaient rien, et ce n'est que vers le soir que les premières patrouilles armées sont sorties des casernes.

Aucune demeure d'étrangers n'a été attaquée, quoique toutes aient donné asile à un grand nombre d'Arméniens.

Les Arméniens ne sont sur ce point en aucune façon responsables de ces déplorables événements n'ayant rien fait pour provoquer la fureur des Musulmans!

Le chiffre minimum des victimes est de 500.

De sources non moins certaines je viens d'apprendre que la ville d'Amassia à été le théâtre de faits absolument analogues, avec cette différence que le nombre des victimes est beaucoup plus nombreux. L'on donne le chiffre de 1,100, mais il est certain que ce nombre est en dessous de la vérité.

A Kavza mêmes faits avec un nombre de dix-neuf victimes.

A Tokat il y a eu également des massacres et du pillage, avec les mêmes atrocités et un nombre de victimes de

A Yuzgat 176 victimes avec les mêmes atrocités.

A Corum 18[a] victimes, viols et incendies.

A Sivas 1,300 victimes et pillage.

Enfin sur les routes de toute cette ligue le nombre des victimes est très considérable; impossible de donner des chiffres même approximatifs, aussi l'on ne trouve plus ici aucun voiturier ni chamelier Chrétien osant s'aventurer dans l'intérieur.

Maintenant, M. le Consul, jusqu'à ce jour la ville de Samsoun à été épargnée de semblables actes de barbaries ignobles; continuera-t-elle à l'être jusqu'à la fin? . . . . Je l'espère, mais je suis loin d'en avoir la certitude; les esprits sont très montés de part et d'autre et la moindre chose peut amener des conséquences des plus fâcheuses, et en cas de conflit, il ne fait pas l'ombre d'un doute pour moi, nous aurons à redouter des pertes également parmi les Européens qui sont assez nombreux dans cette ville—220 environ.

Quant à la garnison de la ville de 1,150 hommes environ en ce moment, les réservistes y compris, je n'ai aucune confiance en eux et je suis certain que s'ils ne restent point passifs spectateurs, ils prendront part à la curée. Ce fait s'est reproduit partout et il n'y a pas de raison pour qu'il se produise une exception en faveur de notre ville sous ce rapport.

Notre Mutessarif, Hamdi Bey, il faut lui rendre cette justice, fait tout son possible pour éviter les troubles; il prend toutes les mesures qui lui paraissent de nature à éviter des conflits; en maintenant avec autant de vigueur les Musulmans que les Chrétiens, donnant des conseils à toutes les communautés, recevant et écoutant tout le monde, en un mot n'épargnant aucune peine, ni fatigue, pour arriver à obtenir l'ordre.

Malheureusement j'ai de bonnes raisons de le supposer seul de son opinion et peu ou point secondé par son entourage aussi bête que fanatique.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) H. DE CORTANZE.

No. 803.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 954.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 17, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 872 of the 27th ultimo, reporting that the Sultan had, in consequence of the representations of this Embassy, conferred a decoration on the Mutessarif of Mush, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 13th instant I received a telegram from Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson stating that the military authorities there had now joined the Cadi in his opposition to the Mutessarif, whom they accuse of English sentiments.

I thereupon instructed Mr. Block to bring the matter to the notice of the Sultan, through his First Secretary, and to say that if this one functionary who had endeavoured to put a stop to the massacres was not supported by His Majesty against those who were endeavouring to excite the Mussulmans against the Christians, it would produce a very painful effect in England, and would lead to disagreeable comments on the attitude of the Imperial Government.

His Majesty replied that he would inquire into the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

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[a] Number much below the truth, judging from telegrams received at Trebizond.—H. Z. L.

No. 804.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 955.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 17, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, describing the massacre at Cæsarea, and also copy of a private letter addressed to me by Mr. Whittall confirming this account.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 804.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Angora, December* 12, 1895.

WITH reference to my telegram to your Excellency of the 2nd instant, reporting that there had been a disturbance at Cæsarea, I now have the honour to submit such details of the affair as have been communicated to me, and which I have every reason to believe authentic.

As mentioned in my despatch to your Excellency of the 25th ultimo, a large force of Reserves was dispatched from Cæsarea, on or about the 20th November, to intercept the passage of a mixed rabble of Kurds and Circassians who threatened a descent upon that town. Shortly afterwards two detachments of Reserves started from Cæsarea, the one towards the town of Sivas, the other in the direction of Azizié, in consequence, most probably, of disturbances on the Sivas frontier. Picks and shovels were distributed among the latter troop with a view, perhaps, to the interment of the dead.

In Cæsarea itself only one battalion remained. For some days previous to the outbreak there the Armenians had been in great terror; many of them had been beaten by Turks, just as was the case with the Marsovan Armenians preluding the massacre in their town. My correspondents inform me, however, that the authorities did their utmost to reassure the people, and that the higher officials were most energetic in their efforts to preserve order.

On Saturday, the 30th ultimo, at about 8 o'clock Turkish, a mob of Turks suddenly poured from the different Mussulman quarters into the Sewahi Bazaar and the Ouzoun Charshi (market), armed with long knives, and shouting "Kill, kill the Giaours." Armenian shops and houses were broken into, the inmates slaughtered, and everything of value plundered. A part of the crowd rushed into the public baths, dragged out Christian women into the street, tore the earrings from their ears and the rings from their fingers, and then killed them.

At the Casma Hané factory the proprietor and twenty-one workmen were butchered. In Pambouk Han, the shoemakers' centre, fifty-three men were killed. Houses and shops belonging to Armenians were fired, and most of the timber-built houses were burnt down. Numbers of young women and girls were carried off by the pillagers.

The Angora authorities now recognize upwards of 300 deaths as having occurred during the disturbance at Cæsarea. My private informants, however, estimate the number of Armenians killed at from 600 to 1,500. According to two letters received by me from different sources in that town, towards 4 o'clock Turkish (9 P.M.) a bugle-call from the Konak signalled to the troops to stop the massacre, which was promptly obeyed, and the mob dispersed. According to another version of the affair, the troops at length received, after eight hours of inaction, the order to fire upon the populace.

An Armenian is accused by the authorities as having given rise to the disturbance by firing upon, and killing, a Turkish lady. But my correspondents refute this story.

The Mutessarif of Cæsarea has been dismissed.

I have represented to the Vali the urgent necessity of his wiring instructions to the Cæsarea Military Commandant to concentrate four battalions of Reserves in and

around the town, and to signify to their officers that they will be severally and individually responsible for any recrudescence of the recent disorder. The Vali has sent telegraphic instructions to that effect, and, further, has informed me that he will endeavour to ascertain the names of the ringleaders in the massacre of the 30th November, and have them summarily punished. But his efforts to that end are not likely to prove very successful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 804.

Mr. Whittall to Sir P. Currie.

Kadikeui, December 13, 1895.

Dear Sir Philip,

AS you probably cannot get any direct news from Cesarea, the scene of the latest massacre, permit me to give you some of the details.

Of course, all the letters by the first post (arrived this evening) since the massacre were intercepted by the Turks. At all events, none of our clients got any except one man, who apparently got his by a fluke.

His brother, a merchant of the place, writes asking him to excuse the shortness of the letter, but he had been wounded by a yataghan and could scarcely write. He relates that, at 9 Turkish (1:30 P.M.), on Saturday, the 30th ultimo, the native Turks of the city (there were no Kurds or outsiders) suddenly attacked the Greeks and Armenians in the bazaars. (N.B.—The shopkeepers there were all Christians.) As many as could run away did so, but many were killed. All the bazaars were then looted, and afterwards burnt simultaneously. Another lot of Turks surrounded the public bath, where many Christian women were bathing, as usual, on Saturdays. The scenes enacted in those baths were indescribably awful. The shrieks of the women were heard all round. Then the mob began systematically attacki g the houses, &c. The hellish work went on all through Saturday night, Sunday, up to Monday, when it ceased. Nothing is said about the action of the authorities, but apparently the mob was unrestrained. The writer adds many were killed, but we don't know the number, as some of the missing might turn up.

I hear numerous well-to-do Armenians in the interior are now begging for charity from their friends here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. WHITTALL.

No. 805.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 956.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 17, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translation of a letter addressed to Serkis Comechian, servant in the "Drogmanat" of Her Majesty's Embassy, by his brother at Sivas, describing the losses sustained by his family during the recent massacres in that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 805.

Letter addressed to Serkis Comechian, Domestic in the "Drogmanat," by his Brother.

(Traduction.)
Serkis Agha Comechian, Constantinople:

J'AI reçu vos lettres datées du 30 Octobre et du 6 Novembre, et j'ai pris connaissance de leur contenu. Vous devez avoir entendu sans doute les événements qui se sont produits à Sivas. Ceux qui ont été assassinés de nous sont: Sourlick, Daldal, et le père de Manouk Agha. Aussi Manouk est blessé et il se trouve chez nous avec ses enfants. Il y a eu beaucoup d'hommes tués, comme aussi une perte considérable de biens. Tous les villages ont été ruinés et les villageois se trouvent sans abri sur les montagnes et exposés à la neige et à la pluie. Toutes les marchandises se trouvant dans les boutiques et magasins de la ville ont été livrés au pillage. Nous n'avons pas pu sauver même une aiguille, comme, d'ailleurs, les habitants de la ville n'ont rien pu sauver. Plusieurs maisons furent aussi livrées au pillage à part les magasins. Heureusement le nommé Mehmed Hasta avait pu sauver notre maison et sa famille s'était accourue chèz nous pour protéger nos enfants et la famille, car ce jour-là nous n'avons pas pu retourner à la maison. Moi, mon frère, et mon père nous nous sommes trouvés dans le han et c'est avec grand'peine que nous avons pu sauver notre vie en nous réfugiant dans la maison de Derbaba, où nous avons sauté par le toit du han. Ce jour-là nos marchandises étaient arrivées et nous étions là à régler notre compte avec les chameliers, lorsqu'à 6 heures les troubles ont commencé. Des chameliers dont nous avions déjà réglé leur compte se sont précipités sur nous. Nous avions 55 livres en caisse. Ils les ont pris par force. Grâce à Dieu, nous ne sommes pas assassinés, mais nous sommes restés avec 6 piastres pour toute fortune. Jusqu'à ce jour, nous ne sommes pas sortis de chez nous. Il y a deux familles pauvres qui se sont réfugiés chez nous et nous sommes aujourd'hui vingt-six personnes dans la maison.

La maison de l'oncle Bedros est à l'abri de tout danger. Seulement Eghin Effendi est blessé, étant venu ce jour-là assister au marriage de Nichan Effendi.

Ton frère:
(Signé) HAMPARTZOUM COMECHIAN.

No. 806.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 957.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 17, 1895.

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 847 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translation of a Petition addressed by the Armenian Vicar of Ordou to the Russian, French, and British Ambassadors, giving an account of the recent massacres at Tamzara.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 806.

Petition.

(Traduction.)

HORREUR ! HORREUR ! HORREUR !

MISÈRE ! MISÈRE ! MISÈRE !

Sang, Destruction, Pillage, et Ruine à Tamzara.

CES mots avec toutes leurs acceptions ne suffisent pas pour décrire le triste état dans lequel se trouve aujourd'hui la ville de Tamzara. Les massacres de Sasun sont beaucoup moindres comparativement à ceux que notre ville a souffert.

Le 14 (26) Octobre, 1895, les Turcs d'Aghoutmouch, village situé à une heure de distance de Kara-Hissar et de Tamzara, et ceux d'Alidjora, village situé également d'une heure de distance, au nombre de 2,000, font un assaut sur la ville de

Kara-Hissar où ils ont tué trente à quarante personnes qu'ils avaient rencontrées; mais comme la population de la ville s'était accourue pour se défendre contre cet assaut, ces Turcs, voyant qu'ils ne pourront pas massacrer toute la population Chrétienne, se sont dirigés sur le bazar et ils l'ont livré au pillage ainsi que toutes les maisons, et marchèrent ensuite sur Tamzara, petite ville d'une heure de distance de Kara-Hissar.

Je dois vous faire savoir tout d'abord que la population de Tamzara étant en général des artisans les hommes restent presque toujours chez eux à travailler ou bien dans leurs ateliers, et elle est composée de 150 familles Arméniennes et 80 familles Musulmanes. Les Turcs, après avoir bloqué la ville de tous côtés ont entré là dedans et commencé d'abord à égorger les deux prêtres de la ville, les nommés Der Kirkor et Der Kud, et après les avoir transportés dans le bazar, les ont décapités devant la mosquée même. Ensuite, ils ont ramassé tous les jeunes gens et leur ont donné la mort, après leur avoir fait subir toutes sortes de tortures, ainsi que les Notables de la communauté qui furent également massacrés devant la dite mosquée où les Turcs les avaient transportés en les traînant. Et de cette façon, ils ont mis en mille morceaux toute une population sans armes et composée de 200 artisans.

Ces mêmes individus n'ont pas épargné les enfants et les écoliers et ils en ont massacré la plupart, à coup d'épée, et lorsqu'ils ont vu qu'il ne restait plus d'hommes dans la ville, ils ont dirigé leurs pas vers les églises. Là a commencé le pillage et la profanation d'une façon horrible. Après avoir enfoncé les portes de l'Église Sourp Takavor ils ont ramassé tout ce qu'il y avait en objets de valeur sur les autels et le tabernacle et dans les armoires, de façon qu'ils se disputaient entre eux les objets d'or et d'argent qu'ils avaient pillés. Après avoir usurpé ainsi toute une richesse qui s'était formée depuis deux siècles, ils se sont rendus au monastère de Sourp Kévork où ils ont commis les mêmes actes profanes et les mêmes spoliations.

Cette bande de destructeurs a fait ensuite une descente dans les maisons. Ici, ils nous est impossible de pouvoir décrire sans pleurer les actes de cruauté commis dans les maisons. Ils ont visité les malles et les armoires, avec tout le calme possible, brisé tous les meubles et pillé tout ce qu'ils ont trouvé en objets de valeur, à tel point où ils n'ont pas même laissé une aiguille. Ils ont brisé les glaces, les fenêtres et les vitres, et enlevé les habits et les costumes des jeunes filles et des nouvelles mariées, sur lesquelles ils ont commis le dernier des outrages. Quelques-unes d'elles furent enlevées pour devenir l'objet de leur dessein brutal. Ces actes furent commis d'une façon si brutale et si cruelle que ces femmes et ces filles n'ont aujourd'hui rien pour se vêtir et elles se couvrent avec des lambeaux de linge, pleurant sur leurs maris, leurs enfants, et leurs frères. Tout ceci a duré pendant trois jours sans qu'aucun fonctionnaire du Gouvernement ou un Agent de Police vienne de la part des autorités de Kara-Hissar qui n'a qu'une distance d'une heure.

Maudit Gouvernement! C'est avec ton ordre que cette bande s'est formée pour que ces 200 hommes innocents et sans armes soient les victimes de tes caprices et de tes plaisirs! Non content de tout cela, tu as voulu que tes ordres soient aussi exécutés à Kara-Hissar et les mêmes actes de barbarie et de destruction soient commis sur plusieurs villages, dans les églises et sur la personne des prêtres et du peuple Arménien!

Est-tu satisfait maintenant? Arrête-toi un instant au milieu des veuves restées sans aucun moyen d'existence et des enfants sans père et sans pain! Regarde ces cadavres et réjouis-toi du fond de ton cœur infernal. Tamzara n'existe plus, il est détruit et ruiné, et sa population laborieuse a disparu.

Et toi, Europe Chrétienne. Qui est-ce qui a donc commis cet horrible crime, si ce n'est les enfants de Mahomet et de l'Europe. Le résultat de tout ceci serait qu'une sentence de honte éternelle devra être prononcée dans les pages de l'histoire et de la justice, au front même de l'Europe civilisée et puissante.

Le transport des richesses et des butins de Tamzara a duré pendant trois jours et au moyen des chevaux, des mulets, et des bœufs des Tamzariens mêmes. Au nom du Ciel et de l'humanité, qu'une enquête soit faite pour constater l'authenticité de ces faits.

La ville de Kara-Hissar se trouve aussi depuis une trentaine de jours bloquée et l'on ne permet à personne de sortir de la ville, sous prétexte que le mystère ne soit divulgué et que l'Europe n'en soit pas informée.

Quant aux districts de la province de Trébizonde et à la situation du peuple

Arménien d'Ordou en particulier, nous nous trouvons dans un état des plus déplorables. On nous menace à chaque instant publiquement, disant que la population d'Ordou doit aussi payer aux Turcs le tribut de son sang, comme ça eut lieu dans d'autres localités. Plusieurs fois nous avons fait part de notre situation aux Consuls à Trébizonde, mais aucune assistance ne nous a été donnée jusqu'à présent de leur part.

Nous ne savons pas quel est le sort qui nous attend. Mais nous pouvons deviner qu'en présence de cette indifférence de l'Europe, nous subirons le même sort que celui de nos pauvres et regrettés frères. Tous ces crimes avaient été commis par le Gouvernement Ottoman, au moment même où le Sultan donnait, d'une manière solennelle, aux Grandes Puissances, la promesse formelle que la justice sera faite et que l'ordre et la sécurité publique seront rétablis.

Enfin, tout ceci eut lieu après la signature de ce fameux projet de réformes.

Je vous prie, Messieurs, n'ajoutez pas foi aux ordres qu'on envoie de Constantinople. Personne dans les provinces ne donne de l'importance à ces ordres. Les massacres continuent jusqu'à ce jour, et même à l'heure où je vous adresse la présente.

Je viens de prendre des nouvelles sur les massacres de Marsovan et d'Amassia. La ville de Tokat est bloquée par 1,500 brigands à cheval. Après que des massacres aient lieu dans la province de Sivas, les Arméniens de Keuyléssar, district situé dans la dite province, ont été forcés, devant les armes et l'épée, de changer de religion et beaucoup de leurs filles furent mariées à des Musulmans.

(Signé) Prêtre EGHIGHIÉ PAPASIAN,
Curé de la Communauté Arménienne d'Ordou.

Ordou, le 15 (27) *Novembre*, 1895.

No. 807.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 958.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 16, 1895.

IN consequence of information supplied to me by the Ephas of the Armenian church in Pera respecting the continued arrests of Armenians in the city, I instructed Mr. Shipley to bring the matter to the notice of Nazim Pasha, Minister of Police, informing his Excellency that I attached great importance to it, and had already made representations direct to the Sultan on the subject.

Mr. Shipley accordingly presented to the Minister a list of the Armenians recently arrested, and drew his particular attention to certain alleged cases of death in prison from ill-treatment at the hands of other prisoners.

This latter accusation the Minister denied with great warmth, adding that in none of these cases of alleged torture could the persons making the accusations bring any proofs in support of their statements. Nazim Pasha admitted that twenty Armenians had been arrested by night at Tophane, but said that this was due to the stupidity of the Mutessarif of Pera, whom he had called to account.

With regard to the alleged wholesale repatriation of Armenians, his Excellency said that there was no truth in the allegation; he had no wish to repatriate the 3,000 or 4,000 Armenians of the provinces resident in the capital, but only such as he knew to be revolutionists. He knew, for instance, that in the Armenian church in Galata there were some fifty or sixty disreputable Armenians who were trying, by intimidation, and even torture, to force other Armenians to join in the seditious movement. What was he to do with such people, if for political reasons he was not allowed to arrest or repatriate them?

I also instructed Mr. Shipley to bring to his Excellency's notice a report that had reached me that arms were being sold to Mussulmans while they were refused to Christians. This report the Minister also characterized as misleading. The sale of arms was now permitted to any one of respectable position, but he had prohibited it to both Christians and Mussulmans alike who were of the poorer classes, such as porters, firemen, &c. His Excellency added that he personally was in favour of a general measure of disarmament applying to all classes of the population, both Christian and Mussulman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 808.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 959.) *Constantinople, December 17, 1895.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 956 of the 15th December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, transmitting a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting continuation of uneasiness in that town, and raids of Kurds in the vicinity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 808.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, December 3, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to forward copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting the continuation of uneasiness in that town, and giving further details about the Kurdish raids in that vilayet.

Mr. Hallward comments on the destitute condition of the villagers, and on the effects of the impoverishment of the rural population on the public revenues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 808.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Cumberbatch.

Van, November 26, 1895.

Sir,

IT is difficult at present to form any estimate of the loss of life and property sustained by the Christians in the attacks of the Kurds mentioned in my despatches of the 6th, 13th, and 20th instant, but, as far as I can ascertain, a comparatively small proportion of the villages throughout the whole vilayet escaped without some loss, and many of them were plundered of everything, down to the outer garments of the men, women, and children, so that it seems almost inevitable that large numbers of them should die of hunger and exposure during the winter. The streets of the town are full of village women and children going about bare-footed in the snow, with the scantiest rags to cover them. They are given temporary lodging by the Church authorities and other Armenians.

As a rule the Kurds seem to have acted on the principle of killing only those who resisted being robbed, and I was told by an official that, as far as he knew, about 100 lives had been lost, but that probably there might be more. Probably a good many children died or disappeared in the confusion of escaping from the Kurds. One woman started for Van from a village about 25 hours away, with three small children; finding that they could not keep up with her, she took one in her arms, and one on her back, and left the other in hiding in a cave. She brought the two to Van, and went back to fetch the other, but found it had died of cold and hunger.

The village of Marmied, three hours from Van, was plundered, and a girl was carried off by the Kurds; an Armenian from Van, who happened to be there, went to expostulate and try to recover her, but was shot dead.

In the district of Garchigan several girls and brides were abducted by Kurds, and their husbands forced to become Moslem.

The well-known brigand and assassin, Shakir of Norduz, has been plundering the district of Haigazar; he killed the Headman of the village of Asvadzashen, and subsequently came to Van to pay a visit to his friend Nouri Effendi, Head of Police. The latter, however, declined to receive him as a guest, but I am told he is still in the town.

The worst accounts I have heard are from the district of Khizan (Bitlis Vilayet), where bands of Kurds have been going round the villages forcing the Christians to become Moslem, and killing those who refuse. In some cases men who consented to become Moslem were obliged to kill their brothers who refused to change their religion.

In order to give any effectual help to the villagers, relief would have to be organized on a very large scale, but even if the necessary funds could be found, in the present state of things there would be no security that anything that was distributed in the villages would not fall into the hands of the Kurds. Zekki Pasha, the Mushir, who is responsible for the Hamidié troops, could have stopped all this robbery and murder at the outset had he chosen, but the officials themselves here complain that he sends ambiguous orders which practically amount to nothing. Thus, the troops have been ordered to fire on the Kurds should the latter attack them, but I need scarcely say that the Kurds, as a rule, carefully avoid coming into collision with the troops. At one village the Kurds did fire on some zaptiehs, and the latter fired back and killed one Kurd, and arrested some others, but otherwise the Kurds have not been molested, and there appears to be no question of punishing them.

I had the honour to point out in my despatch of the 15th April that, as long as Zekki Pasha was in command of the 4th Army Corps, the Kurds were likely to enjoy complete impunity.

The financial results of this business will cause considerable embarrassment to the Government. The Local Government has been very short of money for some time past, in spite of this year's harvest being an exceptionally good one; next year, with so many ruined villages throughout the vilayet, they will be far worse off, and will have great difficulty in meeting the ordinary expenses of local administration, to say nothing of the extra expenses entailed in the scheme of reforms.

The bazaars here are still closed, the Armenian merchants declaring that there is no security for them to open their shops. Satisfactory measures have been taken for the protection of foreigners in the town, but from the native point of view the situation is by no means reassuring. Some of the Armenians were warned about three weeks ago by friendly Turks not to go to the bazaars on a certain day, and since then they have not ventured to reopen their shops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 809.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 960.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 17, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the state of affairs in the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 809.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, December 9, 1895.*

IN connection with my despatch of the 28th ultimo, I have further the honour to communicate the following extract of a letter from Dr. Jewett, dated Sivas, the 3rd instant:—

"Affairs continue about as bad as ever in this province. Abdullah Pasha and his two companions were here 28th to 30th November. They talked a lot of nonsense about the Armenians being in rebellion, got the Armenians to thank them for the protection and blessings they enjoy, promised to have the stolen property restored and some of the rioters punished, and left without having done anything.

"Massacres and pillage go on all about us. Zileh was sacked on the 29th, Cæsarea on the 30th, and to-day it is reported that Tokat has been done up. The

Armenians of Azizieh and Mangilik were reported finished last week. At Mangilik seventeen young Armenian women were carried off, and Abdullah Pasha ordered them to be returned.

"The Vali says that at Gurun every Armenian house was burned except the houses of the Catholic Armenians, which were protected by Turks. A large proportion of the population was killed.

"At Sivas the priests claim to have the names of 2,050 Armenians who are missing. The number killed in the city, I think, was at least 1,200. A police officer said that seventeen Turks were killed, some by mistake. A show has been made of ordering stolen property to be returned, but no one has been punished or arrested.

"Four or five Armenians were killed in the city last week. No confidence exists, because the murderers are going about boasting of their deeds, and telling what they are going to do. The Turks think all the massacre and plundering is done at the request of the Government.

"The President of the Court of Appeal said the Armenians are only spared as hostages to prevent foreign intervention.

"There is a great scare on here to-day, because the Turks tell the Armenians that the massacre is to be renewed, and our quarter of the city, which was spared so far, is to be destroyed.

"In the event of war between any foreign Power and Turkey, we could not depend on Turkish soldiers and police to defend us. They do not know anything about belligerent rights, and we would be slaughtered unless some provision is made for our special protection. I hope you will give this matter your attention. Our position in the interior is not an enviable one.

"The Vali said the Tokat people acted well. The Armenians gave up their arms and fifty revolutionists, and the Government protected the city. Yesterday he said they were to give up a certain man who robbed the post last year. The Government has already had all or nearly all of the robbers in its hands. To-day we hear that Tokat has been sacked. I don't know if it is true. An officer says serious disturbance at Tokat was prevented."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 810.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 961.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 18, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of an extract from a letter received from Mr. Dwight, giving a few instances of humane conduct on the part of Moslems during the massacres in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 810.

The Rev. Mr. Dwight to Sir P. Currie.

December 16, 1895.

(Extract.)

EVEN within the six provinces there are some cases where villages were saved by Moslems. Six villages were so saved in the district of Keghi (Erzeroum). Yeni Khan, near Sivas, was saved by Moslems. A Moslem is under treatment by our Dr. Dodds at Cæsarea who was wounded while aiding Armenians to defend Gemerek (Sivas) against the Kurds. At Aintab the conduct of the Kaimakam on the 16th, 17th, and 18th November, and of the Turkish troops, was unexceptionable apparently.

All these are white spots in this horribly black record. It remains to be seen whether these men will now be punished for their humanity.

No. 811.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 963.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 18, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, forwarding a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush relating to the state of affairs in the Bitlis Vilayet.

Your Lordship will perceive that the tenour of Mr. Hampson's despatch is modified by the information reported to your Lordship in my telegram No. 793 of the 13th December.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 811.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, December* 2, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush on the state of the Bitlis Vilayet.

Mr. Hampson states that things are quieting down at Mush and Bitlis, and that in the Sasun and Talori districts the military authorities had, so far, prevented Kurdish raids on the reconstructed villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 811.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Mush, November* 26, 1895.

I AM glad to be able to inform you that, since the events reported in my despatch of the 16th instant, there has been no further attempt at disorders here, that shops are being gradually reopened, and that, though there is a general feeling of discouragement and hopelessness as to the future, the panic has considerably abated.

From what I learn from both Mussulman and Christian sources, I think there is little doubt that the outbreak on the 15th was premature. That such an event had been planned by a certain class of the Mussulmans seems certain; Kurds were to be brought into the town to start the disturbance, and a general massacre of the Christians was to follow. But a lucky accident precipitated matters, and the Government were able, by prompt action and the exceptional energy of the Mutessarif, to suppress a rising which had taken the promoters by surprise. I hope that it is not very likely that they will make a second attempt.

Only four or five of the Mussulmans arrested remain in prison, many—including the two zaptiehs—having been released, though there was evidence of their active participation in the attack. On the other hand, the whole of a prominent family of Armenians have been arrested, though only one of them was in the market at the time of the outbreak, and he fired a revolver in self-defence without injuring any one.

The investigation has, unfortunately, now passed out of the hands of the Mutessarif into those of the judicial authorities, with the above result.

From the neighbourhood I hear that the Government is acting with energy. The soldiers sent to Jemalink appear to be keeping the Kurds in Sasun in order, and two battalions have now gone to Guendj to restrain the Kurds in the Talori region. In Boulanik and Varto also the authorities appear to be taking active measures against the Kurds.

In Bitlis things seem to be settling down slowly, though the distress both there

and in the neighbourhood, especially in Akhlat, appears to be terrible, the Christians having lost all they possessed. About forty Armenian Notables remain in prison in Bitlis.

It seems to be a repetition of the old story: the Mussulmans determine on a massacre of Christians, they call on the Kurds to help them, succeed, more or less, in their purpose, imprison a number of Armenians, and then, when called to account, turn on the Kurds as the sole culprits. This plan of action having already been so frequently pursued, it shows either great zest or great innocence on the part of the Kurds that they should still always be ready to lend themselves to it. In the present instance I have heard of several cases in which Kurds refused to have anything to do with the business on the grounds above stated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 812.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 23.*)

(No. 965. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 18, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum respecting the attitude of Russian Consular officers towards Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 812.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, December 3, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to send your Excellency copy of a despatch received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the attitude of Russian Consular officers towards Armenians.

As regards Mr. Hallward's remarks on the non-interference in matters concerning Ottoman subjects, I have to state that such is not the case with the Russian Consul-General here, who has shown the greatest willingness to act in concert with his colleagues in connection with the succour of the Armenians wounded during the disorders of the 30th and 31st, the recovery and burial of those that were killed, the measures necessary for the security of the town, and the stopping of wholesale arrests of suspected persons. In fact, it was he who proposed our collective telegram to our respective Embassies recommending the punishment of the soldiers who participated in the riots here, and the cessation of indiscriminate arrests of Armenians. Since then he has followed the same line.

With regard to the other side of the question, his attitude of late can best be defined in the following words: "I told you so. Why did you rely on the English?"

Only a few days ago he received instructions to try and calm Mussulman feelings by explaining, in Turkish circles, the real tenour of the scheme of reforms, and by showing how erroneous the idea was that only Armenians will benefit by their introduction.

At the same time, however, I have learnt that he has prevented the conveyance, by the Russian post, of a sum of money sent by the Catholicos to the Armenian Bishop here, as reported in my other despatch of this day's date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 812.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Cumberbatch.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Van, November 26, 1895.*

SOME of the foreign residents here lately suggested that the Consuls should collectively urge the local authorities to take proper measures for the security of the town, and in the course of a conversation I had with the Russian Vice-Consul on this subject he informed me that he had strict orders not to interfere in local politics, and that he could do nothing beyond demanding security for himself and his subjects. I have every reason to believe that he was perfectly sincere in what he said, and that as a matter of fact he entirely abstains from interesting himself in matters concerning Ottoman subjects. This attitude has, I believe, been constantly maintained here by Russian Agents for the last five years.

Local Turks, officers and officials, have maintained throughout the present crisis that the attitude of Russia towards Turkey was friendly as contrasted with that of England. The one thing the Turks here fear from foreigners is a Russian occupation, and as long as there is no question of that they feel that they are free to treat the Christians as they like, though some of the better class Turks do not approve of the policy of exterminating the Armenians, which they consider contrary to their own interests, and many of them think that a Russian occupation is inevitable sooner or later.

Another point worthy of remark is the vigilance exercised by the Russian Government in preventing armed Armenians from crossing the frontier. A considerable service is thereby rendered to the Turkish Government, for were the Russian Armenians free to carry arms across the frontier there can be little doubt that they would utilize the privilege in such a way as to cause considerable annoyance to the Turkish authorities.

In fact, the attitude of the Russian Government from a local point of view has been throughout strictly "correct," but perhaps the indifference they have shown (locally speaking) to the Armenian side of the question has tended to encourage the Turkish Government in its sense of impunity and irresponsibility in dealing with its Christian subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 812.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, December 3, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that yesterday I received a letter from the Armenian Archbishop here telling me that a sum of money (2,000 roubles), on its way to him from the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin, and destined for the relief of the destitute Armenians, has been stopped at Sarikamish by the interference of the Russian Consul-General here.

Mgr. Shishmanian, under the impression that there was a British Consular officer at Tiflis, requested me to ask him to receive the money and forward it to me.

I told the Archbishop that the nearest British Consul resides at Batoum, and that he could only give his assistance if authorized to do so by Her Majesty's Government.

The action of my Russian colleague is probably due to instructions issued at the request of the Turkish Government, who, no doubt, think that the money is destined for seditious purposes, which I have no reason to think is the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 813.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 314. Confidential.)
Berlin, December 16, 1895.

My Lord,

I CALLED upon Baron von Marschall this morning for the purpose of communicating to him, as instructed by your Lordship's telegram No. 135 of the 15th instant, the substance of the telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, which your Lordship did me the honour to repeat to me in your telegram No. 134 of the 15th instant.

Baron von Marschall observed that the information contained in Mr. Hallward's telegram, and also in Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 136, of which I also communicated the substance to his Excellency, corresponded with that which he had received from other quarters. There could be no doubt as to horrible massacres having been committed, although he had been under the impression that in some places there had been some provocation on the part of the Armenians. His Excellency then asked whether Her Majesty's Government had any suggestions to propose, and on my replying that I had no instructions on the subject, said that he thought it probable that things would go on much as they were during the winter, but he feared that complications might arise in the spring. The increasing weakness of the Sultan's authority would encourage the agitation in Macedonia, and the state of affairs in Bulgaria was not calculated to inspire confidence. It was probable that the Bulgarian Government would be unwilling or unable to put a stop to the activity of the Macedonian Committees, and, in his Excellency's opinion, a Macedonian agitation might give rise to greater complications than the Armenian question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 814.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 284. Confidential.)
St. Petersburgh, December 16, 1895.

My Lord,

IMMEDIATELY on the receipt of your Lordship's telegram on the subject of the forced conversion of Armenian villagers in the Vilayet of Diarbekir, reported by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, I called upon Prince Lobanoff and asked him, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, whether he had received similar intelligence. His Excellency replied that he had heard nothing on the subject.

I then informed him that your Lordship would be glad to learn the views of the Imperial Government as to a joint remonstrance on the part of the Powers against such proceedings.

His Excellency answered that, before any joint remonstrance could be made, it would be necessary that the facts should be fully verified, which appeared to him a very difficult matter.

In the first place, what constituted a forced conversion? If an Armenian in fear of death promised that if his life was spared, would that be a forced conversion? And even if it was regarded as such, what would it matter, as the moment his persecutors turned their backs he would immediately renounce his new religion and revert to his own faith. From his own experience in such cases in the East, there was nothing so difficult to prove as alleged forced conversions to Mahommedanism.

I ventured to observe, in reply, that his Excellency probably referred to isolated cases, chiefly of women taken off to Turkish harems and obliged to embrace the Mahommedan religion. I myself had known of many such cases when in Turkey, and it had certainly always been difficult to ascertain the truth; but in the present instance it appeared to be the whole Armenian population of large districts who were to be compelled to turn Mahommedans. That was a very different matter, as it would mean wholesale persecution under the direction, or at least with the connivance, of the Turkish authorities; and in such a case evasion would not be so easy as his Excellency appeared to think.

Prince Lobanoff said that the fact that the Turkish authorities would necessarily be at the head of such a movement rendered the report all the more incredible, as religion had nothing to do with the Armenian persecutions. It was a national and not a religious question, as was proved by the fact that throughout the troubles Christians of other nationalities had never been attacked.

I then expressed to his Excellency the hope that he would authorize me to inform your Lordship that in the event of the report being corroborated the Imperial Government would join in a remonstrance on the subject to the Ottoman Government.

His Excellency replied that although he was in favour of interfering as little as possible in Turkish internal affairs at present, he saw no objection to joining in the proposed remonstrance, so long as the forced conversions alleged to have taken place were fully proved and the other Powers were agreed on the subject. He added, however, that he thought the best plan would be to place the matter in the hands of the Ambassadors at Constantinople, who were in a position to inquire into the truth of the report, and to decide whether a joint remonstrance was necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

No. 815.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 285. Very Confidential.)
St. Petersburgh, December 17, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to report that I took an opportunity to-day of communicating to Prince Lobanoff the further telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush on the subject of the forced conversions of Armenians to the Mahommedan religion. In doing so I again alluded to the strong feeling that such proceedings would inevitably rouse in England when they became known.

Prince Lobanoff said, in reply, that he was afraid that would be the case, and after a pause added, "I was only two years in England, but in that short time I realized the fact that the English are the most inflammable people in the world; much more so than the French or the Italians, who usually enjoy that reputation, and in this Armenian question they have proved my ideas to be correct. I must admit at the same time that they have 'une forte dose—très forte même de philanthropie.' But when they let their philanthropic ideas run riot, they not only get excited themselves but cause excitement amongst others with very disturbing results, as in the present instance; for it cannot be denied that the encouragement given to the Armenian Committees by public men, and public opinion in England, has stimulated the Armenians to revolt and roused the fanaticism of the Turks."

I replied, that I could by no means admit what he appeared to imply, namely, the responsibility of England for the state of affairs in Asia Minor; that responsibility rested with the authors and perpetrators of the cold-blooded massacres at Susun, and it had not required any promptings of the Armenian Committees to make England and all other civilized Powers regard those events with the greatest possible horror. But in any case, I said, I was glad to hear that his Excellency attributed the hearty manner in which England had taken up the matter to philanthropy, as I had noticed that Russian public opinion, as represented by the press, attributed the action of Her Majesty's Government to other and less laudable motives. I told him that scarcely a day passed without some violent and hostile article appearing in the most important and most widely circulated Russian journals, the gist of which was usually to the effect that, for selfish political motives of her own, England had stirred up the Armenian question and was still doing all she could to keep up the excitement and fan the flames of murder and rapine.

His Excellency admitted that unfortunately articles of that description constantly appeared, but made the usual excuse that no one paid any attention to them. I replied that, judging from what I heard, they were, on the contrary, very much read and that the opinions of the press were freely adopted by a large class, and I hinted that it was all the more unfortunate that these articles should appear so constantly as, rightly or wrongly, it was generally believed that the press in Russia was under strict official supervision.

His Excellency reiterated his opinion that the press had no influence on public opinion in Russia, and the conversation dropped.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

No. 816.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 370.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 16, 1895.*

AS instructed by your Lordship's telegram No. 104 of the 14th instant, I communicated yesterday to Count Goluchowski, by means of a French paraphrase, the statements telegraphed by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush to Sir P. Currie on the 13th instant as to the massacres in his district being deliberately organized by the Turks, and being unprovoked by any rebellious movement on the part of the Armenians; and that in his (the Vice-Consul's) opinion these massacres will continue until the surviving Armenians become Mussulmans, unless they are stopped by foreign intervention.

Count Goluchowski at once admitted the probable accuracy of these statements, but said that there is nothing to be done, except to wait and see whether the Sultan will really carry out h promises and re-establish order in the disturbed districts. The most serious admonitions have again and again been made to His Imperial Majesty, and he has undertaken to meet the wishes of the Powers. Time must be given him to carry out his promises.

As for any foreign intervention, the experience of the original intervention of England, France, and Russia had not been encouraging, for, in fact, the action of those three Powers had only resulted in disaster to the Armenians themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 817.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 371. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 17, 1895.*

HAVING listened to Count Goluchowski's answer to the communication of the statements made by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, as reported in my immediately preceding despatch No. 370 of this day's date, I thought it would be as well that his Excellency should be informed of Sir Philip Currie's comments on the present situation in all the provinces which were to have been affected by the reforms; and I therefore produced Sir Philip's telegram No. 794 of the 14th instant, and, as he knows English well enough to read it, I begged him to peruse it carefully.

Count Goluchowski did so, and observed that the description is doubtless true enough, and very impressive; but that nothing can be done to save the Armenians from the fate which undoubtedly menaces them.

As he had already stated, there is nothing to be done but to wait and see if the Sultan will be able to carry out his promises and restore order. Every kind of admonition has been given to him, and his Excellency did not see what more could be said to him than has been already repeatedly urged.

Count Goluchowski quite believes that the massacres have been deliberately organized by the Turkish soldiery, very probably under direct orders from Constantinople. And this has been done in spite of the energetic action of the Ambassadors of England, France, and Russia in favour of the Armenians; nay, it must be confessed that the massacres are really the result of the intervention of those Powers.

A renewal of this sort of intervention would, in all probability, lead to fresh massacres; at all events it would not, in Count Goluchowski's opinion, be wise to make the experiment.

What then remains? Intervention of any other kind must inevitably result in the further "disaggregation" of the Ottoman Empire.

But, if Count Goluchowski rightly understands the situation, this is the last thing that the Powers desire. They know that unless the greatest precautions are taken

Europe is threatened with the reopening of the whole Eastern question. Any further action will have the effect of raising it; will in fact "apply the spark to the powder." A catastrophe would ensue productive of results which would be infinitely more grave than that (comparative) extermination of the whole Armenian race, which I had suggested would be the upshot of allowing things to go on as they are at present.

Moreover, we are all of one mind as to the value of the European concert. It is clear, however, from the difficulty with which that concert has been preserved, in the face of the question of the "stationnaires," that it is not strong enough to bear the strain of any further proposals for united vigorous action in the direction of employment of force. His Excellency's own suggestion, as to the summoning of a limited number of ships of war to the Bosphorus had been absolutely negatived by Russia, and this is to his mind conclusive as to the attitude of that Power.

He must therefore maintain that, lamentable as the condition of affairs in Anatolia undoubtedly is, there is nothing whatever to be done, but to give the Sultan the opportunity of doing what he has engaged to do. The prospect is not a hopeful one, and it is too true that the Armenians will probably perish in large numbers, but, "if they are to perish they must perish."

This last sentiment his Excellency repeated several times in answer to my observation that, if nothing were to be done for them, the Armenians would end by being practically exterminated. He demurred to this, saying that a nationality of two-and-a-half millions could not really be utterly obliterated; but concluded, as I have reported, by reiterating that, if such is fated to be the upshot, we must then acquiesce in their extinction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

P.S.—I shall send a copy of this despatch to Sir Philip Currie by the messenger this week.

E. M.

No. 818.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 371. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 18, 1895.*

IN accordance with your Lordship's orders, telegraphed to me the night before last, I asked Count Goluchowski yesterday to send instructions to Baron Calice to associate himself with his colleagues in taking steps to verify the assertion that the surviving Armenian villagers in Saird Chabakchor and in certain districts of Diarbekir are being compelled to adopt the Mussulman religion.

His Excellency consented to do so; but said that it did not seem to him to be worth taking much trouble about people who are so ready to change their faith as the Armenians appear to be.

I answered that, in view of the destitution and persecution to which so many of them are exposed, I could not wonder at the fact that numbers of them yielded to the temptation to save themselves; to which his Excellency rejoined that, after all, the crown of martyrdom is always within their reach.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 819.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 375. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 18, 1895.*

COUNT EULENBURG, the German Ambassador, called upon me this morning and told me that he had had a long and interesting conversation with Baron von der Goltz Pacha, who has passed through Vienna on his way to Berlin.

My colleague said that he had been deeply impressed by all that he had heard from his countryman of the lamentable situation at Constantinople, and the evident

hopelessness with which he regarded it; more especially had he been shocked by the estimate formed by the Baron of the personal character of the Sultan; of his boundless depravity, his indifference to every consideration but that which affects his own interests; of his absolute want of patriotism; and his recklessness as to what happens even to his Mussulman subjects so long as he can retain his throne and his life.

Baron von der Goltz told Count Eulenburg that the precautions taken by the Sultan for his own safety would probably insure him against personal danger, but that the sensitiveness of the public in the capital is so feverish, and sudden excitement so possible, that he apprehends that any serious incident, such as a large fire, which might be laid to the charge of the Christians, might produce an outbreak of fanaticism resulting in extensive massacres.

The Baron further stated that the mobilization of the army, while for the moment answering the purpose of maintaining order, was, from a military point of view, a measure to be deprecated, inasmuch as from a variety of causes, originating chiefly in the want of money, the rate of depletion is, under such circumstances, at least 20 per cent. per annum; and he assured Count Eulenburg that although he had done his best, in spite of constant discouragement, to introduce some amelioration into the military organization, his patience, in view of promises unfulfilled, Palace opposition and intrigues, &c., had at last utterly broken down.

All this has undoubtedly been long since more ably and in greater detail reported to your Lordship from Constantinople; but I thought it as well that your Lordship should be informed how Baron von der Goltz has expressed himself about affairs at Constantinople even before reaching his own country.

Discussing the situation in Asia Minor, Count Eulenburg remarked that the official reports which had been communicated to him were indescribably horrible, and I was glad to notice that there was no endeavour on his part to treat the sufferings of the Armenians with the indifference frequently affected by the Vienna press, and even in official quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 820.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 382. Secret.)
Vienna, December 20, 1895.

My Lord,

IN a conversation which I had this afternoon with Count Goluchowski, I took occasion to remind his Excellency that Sir P. Currie, on his way through Vienna, had mentioned to him the desirability of taking steps at Constantinople for the establishment of a responsible Ministry, headed by a Grand Vizier with genuine administrative powers.

I said that the condition of affairs in that city seemed to show a steady increase in the confusion at the Palace, and that, in Sir Philip's opinion, the inevitable and not-long-delayed result would be the complete breakdown of the existing administrative machinery.

Under these circumstances, it was probable that his Excellency would very soon receive from Baron Calice a report of the exchange of views which had taken place between him and his British, and, I believe, also his French, colleague.

Count Goluchowski replied that he had assented to Sir Philip Currie's views on this subject as far as the principle goes; but that he must confess that since then he had seen such evident proof of the intention of Russia to seize upon every chance of persuading the Sultan that she is his only friend, and that she alone holds back the other Powers from depriving him of his sovereign rights, that he is of opinion that it would be highly dangerous to broach the subject. If submitted to Russia and rejected by her the proposal would come to the ears of the Sultan, would convince him of the existence of differences of opinion between the Powers, and might, in fact, break up the European concert, to which he (Count Goluchowski) continues to ascribe the greatest importance. He therefore advocates the leaving of the Sultan to carry on affairs in his own way, and prefers to await his breaking down, if the collapse is really inevitable, as the best moment for inaugurating another system.

He added that for eight days he had received nothing from Constantinople, that his mail is due to-morrow, and that he will give his best consideration to any proposals made by Baron Calice and Sir Philip Currie.

I remarked that sooner or later the collapse must apparently come, and that it might be as well to reflect upon the expediency of making it as little mischievous as possible; but I can see that Count Goluchowski is, as matters stand, persuaded that it is expedient that the Powers should continue to stand aloof from interference of every kind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 821.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 815.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 23, 1895, 10 P.M.*

THE Ambassadors have been appealed to by both the Gregorian and Catholic Armenian Patriarchs to use their good offices with the Porte in favour of the Zeitounlis. It is suggested that the foreign Consuls might act as intermediaries in the same way as the Dragomans did when they persuaded the Armenians to evacuate the churches in Constantinople, as it is thought that the Zeitounlis might be willing to accept the assurances of the Turkish Government if conveyed to them by the foreign Consuls, though they refused to trust the Notables who were first sent to them. At a meeting of Ambassadors, which was held at my suggestion this afternoon to discuss this proposal, we all agreed to ask authority from our Governments to propose to the Porte that we should send the Consuls at Aleppo to Zeitoun to act as intermediaries between the Porte and the Zeitounlis.

Have I your Lordship's authority to send Barnham?

I have just heard that snow has fallen at Zeitoun, and this will make it impossible for the troops to make their attack at once.

No. 822.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 967. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 19, 1895.*

I REGRET to say that I am unable to report any improvement in the state of affairs here.

The Ministry appointed after the fall of Kiamil Pasha remains nominally in office, but appears to exercise no control over the affairs of the Empire. Such orders as are given emanate directly from the Sultan.

The accounts from the Asiatic provinces show that the ravages of the Kurds continue unchecked. The perpetrators of the massacres remain unpunished, while innocent Armenians are committed to prison on frivolous charges.

The Redifs who have been called out are quite undisciplined; the Treasury is unable to find money for them, and, instead of restoring order, they will only swell the ranks of the robbers who prey upon the unfortunate population.

At Zeitoun the Turkish troops are closing round the Armenians, and the Sultan is justifying himself beforehand for the extermination of the Zeitounlis by accusing them of killing and mutilating Mussulman women and children.

Disturbances have commenced in Crete, and are threatened in Macedonia. The financial state is desperate, and it seems probable that by next spring the Turkish Government will find itself unable to cope with its difficulties.

This condition of affairs would appear not only to justify, but to call for interference on the part of the Treaty Powers, in order to restore order and to prevent disturbances which would be dangerous to peace. But, unfortunately, the concert of the Ambassadors, as far as the Russian Ambassador is concerned, is limited to the protection of foreigners, and M. de Nélidoff does not consider himself authorized to enter into discussion with his colleagues as to the general state of the Empire.

I have had many private conversations with my other colleagues, who appear to be strongly impressed with the critical position of affairs, and I have suggested that if

we were, each of us, to report our opinions to our Governments, they might possibly, if they concurred in our views, be able by united pressure to induce the Russian Government to modify to some extent their present attitude.

I have drawn up the following statement, showing the limits within which my colleagues would appear to be prepared to act on my suggestion:—

"The disorder and discontent which reign in all parts of the Empire and in all Departments of the Administration, if some means are not found to remedy them, must before long lead to a breakdown of the entire machinery of Government, and so bring the whole Eastern question on the *tapis*. The mental condition of the Sultan is such that he is powerless to bring about an improvement, even if he were willing to do so, and the men who surround him are too corrupt and incapable to contribute to the task.

"It is clear, therefore, that unless some influence is brought to bear from without, Europe is exposed to serious risk.

"Under these circumstances, if the Powers of Europe are agreed that something ought to be done, the best course would appear to be that they should instruct their Ambassadors at Constantinople to concert as to the nature of the remedy which they can jointly recommend to their Governments."

I have shown this paper to Baron Calice and M. Cambon, who expressed generally their concurrence, and gave me to understand that they would write to-day by courier to their Governments in the sense indicated.

It will be seen that the recommendation goes no further than to suggest that the Ambassadors should be authorized to consult together and propose a remedy for the existing state of things. We are of opinion that if the Russian Government could be induced to give such an instruction to their Ambassador, we should have a better chance of bringing them into line through the influence of M. de Nélidoff, who, being on the spot, is naturally more impressed by the gravity of the situation than the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Baron Calice and M. Cambon are both strongly impressed with the importance of carefully preparing the ground before any definite proposal is made. They attribute the failure of Count Goluchowski's well-meant efforts to the neglect of this precaution.

My French colleague personally attaches great importance to an interference on the part of the Powers, and will, I doubt not, exert his influence in that sense with his Government. Unfortunately, the present French Foreign Minister is not so well acquainted with the circumstances as M. Hanotaux, nor does he rely so much as his predecessor on M. Cambon's advice.

If the Russian Government has finally made up its mind that Turkey should be allowed to go from bad to worse until it suits their convenience to intervene, our efforts will be fruitless; but my French colleague, who has good opportunities of judging, is of opinion that Russia's backwardness is, in great part, due to the conviction entertained by Prince Lobanoff, that the state of affairs at Constantinople is the same as when he held the post of Ambassador here many years ago—that everything will right itself if affairs are left to take their course, and that the reports of the Russian Representative show unnecessary nervousness and alarm.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 823.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 24.)

(No. 816.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 24, 1895, 11 A.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Beyrout telegraphs as follows:—

"The Vali has received a telegram from Damascus stating that the troops had inflicted a defeat on the Druses on the 21st December, killing 1,200 and wounded 200; 50 were killed and 70 wounded on the side of the troops."

No. 824.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 24.)

(No. 818.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 24, 1895, 2·25 P.M.

JEDDAH outrage.

Mr. Alban, in a despatch dated the 10th instant, reports that the steps taken by the Grand Shereef hitherto have apparently had no effect, except to exasperate the Bedouin Chiefs. He states that in another month pilgrims will begin to arrive in large bodies, and that it is therefore of great importance that any military operations should be commenced before the arrival of the main body. Similar information has reached the Russian Ambassador.

No. 825.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 24.)

(No. 819.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 24, 1895, 10 P.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Odessa telegraphs that he hears from the Vice-Consul at Sebastopol that the Russian fleet is making ready to put to sea, that orders have been received for the telegraph section of Sappers at Odessa to be placed on a war-footing, and that field stores are being supplied to them.

No. 825*.

Mr. Goschen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 24.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, December* 24, 1895.

I AM informed by Prince Lobanoff that M. de Nélidoff has to-day been authorized to join his colleagues in a proposal to the Porte that the Consuls at Aleppo should receive instructions from their Ambassadors to act as intermediaries between the inhabitants of Zeitoun and the Turkish troops.

No. 826.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 271.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 24, 1895.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 815 of yesterday, stating that the Ambassadors have agreed to apply to their Governments for authority to propose to the Porte that the Consuls at Aleppo should proceed to Zeitun to mediate between the Turkish authorities and the inhabitants.

I authorize you to instruct Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo to go to Zeitun for the purpose indicated.

No. 827.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 25.)

Sir, *Admiralty, December* 23, 1895.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from the Commanding Officer of Her Majesty's ship "Melita," dated the 25th November, respecting the state of affairs at Jeddah.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. D. AWDRY.

Inclosure in No. 827.

Commander Simons to Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour.

"*Melita*," *at Jeddah, November* 25, 1895.

Sir,

HAVING received instructions from Commander Paget, of Her Majesty's ship "Dolphin," Senior Officer, Red Sea, to report to you direct, in continuation of my last letter, I have the honour to report that there has been no change in the situation at Jeddah, the Vali and Grand Shereef of Mecca are still at Mecca, and the same policy of imprisoning any Bedouins of note they can catch is being pursued, twenty-five more being imprisoned last week. So far, the Bedouins have not retaliated, but it is rumoured they are anxious, if possible, to catch a European.

There is no prospect at present of the murderers of the Vice-Consul being given up or captured, and the Turks do not yet contemplate any military expedition. The transport "Soogoodhlu" with 1,400 troops passed through Jeddah on the 23rd instant, but, except a few details, all were taken on to Hodeidah and Kenfida.

On Friday night, the 22nd, a fugitive domestic slave came on board for refuge, and I have handed him over to Her Majesty's Consul here to obtain his freedom. Details are given in a separate Report.

There has been excessive rain here, and houses have been falling down. Yesterday five people were killed.

The Turkish ships "Sinop" and "Nigm Feshan" are still here, the Austrian ship "Pola" has left for surveying duties.

The health of the ship's company is very good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. A. SIMONS.

No. 828.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 25.)

(No. 820.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 25, 1895, 11·10 A.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs as follows:—

"The Turkish troops took Zeitoun on the 23rd December. They shelled and burnt the fort, and the town will probably be destroyed.

"The troops had eight guns in action, but the Armenians had none, as the two which they had previously captured had been disabled.

"The defenders fled from the fort into the town, and then made for the open country in the direction of Killis, near which place several have been taken prisoners.

"The number of Zeitounlis killed is not known, but it is no doubt considerable.

"According to the official account, ten Turkish soldiers and one officer were killed and ten wounded.

"The Ferik says that the non-combatants will be given a safe escort to Marash; but considering the large numbers of Kurds and Circassians who are waiting on the road for an opportunity to fall on them, I very much doubt their safety."

No. 829.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 114. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December* 26, 1895.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 111, I have been informed by Count Goluchowski that he has received Baron Calice's report of the discussion on the subject of a responsible Ministry, which had taken place at Constantinople between the latter and his English and French colleagues.

It is still Count Goluchowski's conviction that a question of such importance can only be approached with safety if all the Powers are unanimous on the subject; such unanimity he thinks impossible to obtain at the present moment.

Although no reply has as yet been sent to Baron Calice, it is my conviction that Count Goluchowski will answer in the negative.

No. 830.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 823.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 26, 1895, 7 P.M.

MY telegram No. 820 of yesterday.

Turkish Government state that, although the troops have destroyed the barracks at Zeitoun and surrounded the town, so that all serious opposition may be considered to be at an end, instructions have been sent to the Commander to advance very slowly so as to allow the Zeitounlis time to surrender, and, in any case, to spare all non-combatants.

I have repeated this telegram to Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo.

No. 831.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 27.)

(No. 825.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 27, 1895, 7·15 P.M.

MY telegram No. 823 of the 26th December.

Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo telegraphs as follows:—

"The Ferik says that after the capture of the fort on the 23rd the Zeitounlis retired to a height from which they can command the town, at a distance of about 2,000 yards from the Turkish position. He estimates their number at over 5,000 men.

"A battle is imminent, and upon its issue depends the surrender of the town."

No. 832.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 414.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, December 27, 1895.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 958 of the 16th instant, reporting the answers returned by the Turkish Minister of Police to communications addressed to him by Mr. Shipley on your Excellency's instructions, with reference to the continued arrests of Armenians in Constantinople, their treatment in prison, and the report that arms are sold to Mussulmans, while they are refused to Christians.

I approve your Excellency's action in calling the attention of Nazim Pasha to these proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 833.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 415.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, December 27, 1895.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 954 of the 17th instant, stating that your Excellency had represented to the Sultan the importance of supporting the Mutessarif of Mush against the opposition offered to his authority by the Cadi and the military authorities, of which you had heard from Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson.

I approve your Excellency's action in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 834.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 827.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 28, 1895, 3·15 P.M.*

IN view of the fact that the Zeitounlis have not yet surrendered, it was decided, at a meeting of the Ambassadors this morning, that we should offer to the Porte the mediation of the Consuls at Aleppo. If our offer is accepted, we shall urge them to grant an armistice. Meanwhile, I have telegraphed to Barnham to consult him confidentially as to what arrangements should be made in the event of the Porte accepting our proposal.

No. 835.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 276.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 28, 1895.*

INFORMATION has reached the Armenian Relief Committee, with regard to Kurdish depredations in the relieved districts, of a similar nature to that contained in Vice-Consul Hampson's report, forwarded in your Excellency's despatch No. 914 of the 10th instant.

The Committee ask if we have any later information to give them.

I should be glad to know whether any of the plundered villages have received further relief, and whether the instructions which your Excellency demanded have been issued by the Porte.

No. 836.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 828.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 29, 1895, 12·45 P.M.*

THE proposal of the Ambassadors to send the Consuls to Zeitoun will probably be refused by Sultan unless his hand is forced, as he does not wish to miss this opportunity of exterminating the Zeitounlis in the same way as he did the Sasunlis. It is not likely that Russia will join in pressing the proposal seriously unless we show her that we mean to carry it through.

If the consent of the Porte is refused or delayed beyond to-morrow evening, have I your Lordship's authority to inform my colleagues that Her Majesty's Government cannot calmly be a witness of the extermination of the Zeitounlis without making an effort to save them, and that I have been instructed to send Colonel Chermside to the head-quarters of the Turkish troops before Zeitoun to do his best to arrange terms, whether the Turkish Government consent or not? He was successfully employed on a similar errand in 1879 (see "Turkey No. 1: 1880").

The other Powers will probably force the Sultan to accept our joint proposal if they see that we mean business.

No. 837.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 277.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 29, 1895.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 828 of yesterday relative to the situation at Zeitoun.

If you still consider that the presence of Colonel Chermside there would be of advantage, I authorize you to send him, and to announce to the Ambassadors your intention of doing so.

I am afraid, however, that Colonel Chermside will have no effectual means of influencing the Turkish authorities, and he is scarcely likely to persuade the Turkish Commanders to disobey the orders they may receive from the Palace, whatever they may be.

No. 838.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 970.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 19, 1895.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 375 of the 13th November, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting losses sustained by British firms in connection with the recent disturbances in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 838.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, December 11, 1895.*

BY your Excellency's despatch of the 29th ultimo, I am desired to report on the proceedings of the Commission appointed to examine questions of damage and compensation arising from the late disturbances at Trebizond; and to take such steps as will secure full consideration of any British claims brought before it.

I have, in answer, to state that the Commission formed at Trebizond confines itself solely to the restitution of stolen property, and has no authority as yet to occupy itself with any question of indemnity.

The members are twenty in number, of which sixteen are Turks, two Greeks, and two Armeno-Catholics. Without giving names, which would only fill up space, it may be remarked that they are all men of note and have most of them fairly good reputations. The predominence of the Mussulman element cannot be criticised adversely on taking into consideration all the circumstances; it will be admitted, moreover, I think, that the Vali has, on the whole, made as good a choice of men as possible.

The Defterdar, Shefik Bey, is the President of the Commission, and the Mufti, Burhaneddin Effendi, Sub-President. There was originally an Executive Committee under the Moslem Notable, Pertef Pasha, composed of, besides himself, Belulzadeh, Osman Effendi, Kadioglou Mustapha Effendi, Lefteraki Enepeoglou, and Boghos O. Marinian. The two Turks showed themselves honest enough, but indolent, and the two Christians shrewd enough, but timorous. As for Pertef Pasha himself, he is suspected to have made his gratuitous functions profitable by appropriating some 3,000*l.* worth of missing jewellery, which, if even true, is based apparently on insufficient evidence. There is little doubt, however, that Pertef Pasha showed an unaccountable degree of negligence and want of promptitude. His departure on the 21st instant for Rizeh in the capacity of Acting Governor for Lazistan, brought about the amalgamation of the section with the whole, a change which is by no means to be regretted, as ever since then the domiciliary search for looted property has been conducted with greater regularity, thoroughness, and severity.

Unfortunately, however, the people had already ample time to bury and remove most of the plundered articles. Little, therefore, can be recovered now, though several members of the Commission meet daily, except Fridays, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., and exert themselves more or less conscientiously in the matter. Hence claimants must not be too sanguine of getting back in kind, much less in money, their stolen belongings. Hitherto it would seem few valuables have been restored, so that of the losses, said to be about 250,000*l.*, scarcely 5 per cent. of the light and dear, and 15 per cent. of the heavy and cheap have as yet returned to their owners, be they in furniture or clothing, cash, goods, or jewellery.

The only firm in the United Kingdom which had incurred losses here is that of Arabian Maranian, of Manchester. The case has already been reported by me in my despatch of the 4th instant, from which it will be understood that besides the merchandize looted from their shops in other parts of Anatolia, they have suffered a loss amounting to about 22,600*l.* at Trebizond by cash and goods stolen and books and bonds destroyed. Scarcely 80*l.* out of 11,000*l.* of clothes have as yet been recovered, while the authorities not only demur in considering the goods stolen as those of a British firm, but express their pecuniary incompetence to meet any such legal claims.

By the looting of an Armenian commission agent's store-rooms, five bales of carpets from Erzeroum, belonging to Mr. Frank Scudmore, correspondent of the "Daily News," were carried off. The Vali from the very first did his utmost to recover these carpets, and great efforts were made, with the result that fourteen out of fifteen pieces in bale No. 1 have been found, but none of the eight pieces in bale No. 2, while the six pieces of bale No. 3, the large carpet, without the twelve cushion covers in bale No. 4, and all the nine pieces of bale No. 5 are among those discovered up to date. As the owner wished them to be insured for 75*l.* the difference in money for those missing, now valued at 25*l.*, will be demanded by the Consulate.

It is a matter of no little congratulation that by the plunder of native shops and warehouses, foreign manufactures have suffered much, but our own none at all. Cash terms, as recommended so often in my Trade Reports, were happily adhered to by British firms, and hence no claims arising from short or long credit, such as are now occupying the attention of the other Consulates, are before me, although British imports at Trebizond reach an annual average of 740,000*l.* against 710,000*l.* from other countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 839.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 971.) *Constantinople, December* 19, 1895.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul acting at Erzeroum, reporting on disorders in the town and district of Kharput.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 839.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, December 5, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the following information that has reached me, so far, about the disorders in the Kharput Vilayet.

By the first week in November the whole of the Arabkir region had been plundered by Dersim Kurds, who crossed over the southern branch of the Euphrates, and on the 7th November disturbances commenced at Arabkir, the Mussulman mob and the Kurds of Shofik, under Batal Bey, joining those from Dersim. Many Armenians were killed in that town, and most of their houses and shops were plundered and burnt. Sixty Armenians have been arrested and sent to Kharput.

The troubles at Malatia (Kharput Vilayet), which, like those of Arabkir, continued for several days, and resulted in great loss of life, began on the 4th November. The Armenians defended themselves in their houses, many of which were burnt.

Eight villages of the Eghin district were plundered during the second week in November, but loss of life is only reported, up to the present, from Gamarghab, where half the inhabitants were killed and the rest converted to Islamism. The Dersim Kurds were also the chief perpetrators of these ravages. The town of Eghin escaped by paying ₤T. 1,500, and the village of Aboudjagh by giving ₤T. 200 to the Kurds.

In the Kharput plain scarcely any Armenian villages have been left untouched; many have been burnt, and their inhabitants are obliged to sleep in the fields without any covering. The loss of life has also been considerable.

The town of Kharput was entered by the Dersim Kurds on the 11th November, the soldiers making a feeble attempt to prevent them. Many shots were fired, but not a single Kurd was known to have been killed. The Armenian quarter, where the buildings of the American Mission are situated, was immediately plundered and set fire to. Eight out of the twelve Armenian houses were burnt, and all were pillaged, Turks of the town taking part. The missionaries were helpless, and had to take refuge with their families and 450 Armenians in one of their school buildings. The Commandant of Gendarmerie, Mehemed Bey, a Circassian, displayed great energy in stopping the conflagration and the pillaging, but the Acting Vali and the Mufti, though apparently well-disposed, proved powerless to prevent the disorders.

An attempt at a renewal was made on the 12th instant, but the soldiers fired on the Kurds, killing a few of them, and they retired and dispersed. Isolated cases of pillaging continued for a day or two, and a few more houses were set on fire here and there, including the principal Armenian church.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the whole region, from Diarbekir (from which place no details have yet been received) to Kharput, Arabkir, Malatia, Eghin, Peri, and Palu, has also been devastated, and that in that vast district very few Armenian villages have been exempted.

Thousands of people are now ruined, and death by starvation or exposure stares them in the face.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 840.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 972.) *Constantinople, December* 19, 1895.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation of an official "Communiqué" in the Turkish newspaper "Sabah" announcing the escape from Medina of the notorious Moussa Bey and his subsequent recapture by order of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 840.

Extract from the "Sabah" of December 19, 1895.

(Translation.)

IT having come to the knowledge of His Majesty the Sultan that Moussa Bey, ordered to reside at Medina, had fled from that city in company with a Kurd named Mustafa, an Iradé was issued for his capture without fail.

In reply to the telegrams which were sent to that effect in all directions by the First Secretary of His Majesty, a communication has been received by the latter from the Bagdad Vilayet that Edhem Pasha, the Commandant of Gendarmerie of that vilayet, and acting Mutessarif of Kerbela, has reported the capture of Moussa Bey with his companion Mustafa.

Marks of Imperial favour have been bestowed upon the above-mentioned Pasha, and as the capture of Moussa Bey is another instance of the successful measures taken by the Sultan, prayers are being offered up for the long life of His Majesty.

No. 841.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 973.) *Constantinople, December 21, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note which, on receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 490 of the 9th December, I addressed to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs calling the immediate and serious attention of his Excellency to the question of satisfaction for the Jeddah outrages, and pressing for information as to the steps taken or contemplated by the Imperial Government towards that end.

In accordance with an Agreement with my French and Russian colleagues that we should send our Dragomans separately to the Porte to press for answers, and for the payment of the indemnity, I instructed Mr. Block to make verbal representations to the Grand Vizier, to which his Highness replied that the Sublime Porte were waiting for an answer to inquiries addressed by it to the Vali of the Hedjaz and the Grand Shereef as to the practicability of sending a military force to capture the murderers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 841.

Sir P. Currie to Tewfik Pasha.

Constantinople, December 17, 1895.

M. le Ministre,

ON the occasion of an audience with which His Imperial Majesty the Sultan honoured me on the 20th ultimo, I called His Imperial Majesty's attention to the attack made on the British Consul and Vice-Consul at Jeddah in May last. His Imperial Majesty was pleased to promise that he would inquire into the matter, and issue fresh orders for the capture and punishment of the offenders.

I have now been instructed by my Government to inquire of your Excellency what has been the result of these further orders. The matter is in their opinion one which cannot be neglected; they observe with regret that all the measures taken hitherto by the local authorities appear to be of a futile and illusory character, and that no effective preparations for an expedition against the offenders are being made; they fear that unless action is shortly taken, the commencement of the pilgrimage will afford the authorities of the Hedjaz a plausible ground for urging that military operations cannot be safely undertaken.

For these reasons Her Majesty's Government consider it essential that I should call your Excellency's immediate and serious attention to this grave question, and press for information as to the steps taken or contemplated by the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 842.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 974.) *Pera, December 21, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to transmit to your Lordship in my despatch No. 847 of the 22nd November copy of a letter from a British resident engaged in a mining business in the district of Kerassunde.

I have now received a further communication from the same gentleman, in which he states that the new Mutessarif who has been appointed at Kara-Hissar is animated by excellent intentions, and has saved the remaining Armenians and their villages from destruction. He states that 5,000 Armenians at least have been killed in the Kara-Hissar district, and instances the case of the village of Tamzara, where almost the entire male population, 250 in number, have perished. At the time of the massacres his three Mussulman servants left him, including a boy of 14, and returned after four days laden with booty, and having, according to their own account, killed twenty-one Armenians. The positions of the survivors, who in many cases have been robbed even of their clothing, is aggravated by the guards of the Turkish soldiery sent for their protection, who demand the surrender of the little property they have left, and who carry off the women. The proceedings of a certain Captain called Saidagha at the village of Broussaïd are especially mentioned in this respect.

As a consequence, the Armenians have petitioned that the officers sent for their "protection" may be withdrawn. The economic position of the country will suffer severely next year owing both to the small number of Armenians left, and to the fact that nearly all the male Turks have now been called out to join the Redifs.

My informant considers the simultaneous occurrence of the massacres over so wide an area as the strongest evidence that orders were sent from Constantinople, and states that the Turks who came from Guneshkhane and other villages for the massacre at Kara-Hissar themselves said that "word had come from the Padischah."

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 843.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 975.)

My Lord,

Pera, December 21, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an abstract of letters written by Mr. Martin, of Hadjin, and communicated to me by the United States' Minister, respecting the state of affairs in that neighbourhood.

The Kaïmakam of Hadjin has been removed on the demand of the United States' Minister, and tranferred to Tarsus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 843.

Mr. Martin to Mr. Gibson.

(Extract.) *Hadjin, November 9, 1895.*

* * * * * * *

RECOUNTS his adventure with a zaptieh, his teskéré, &c., as before.

Belief current there that the officials are in league with the bandits of the Kishe neighbourhood.

Probability increased by the fact that for nine months they have had no wages. He says he has written to British Embassy to make claim for compensation. Situation getting worse every day, and hostilities only averted by efforts of better class of Mussulmans.

The Kaïmakam fosters religious differences.

Christians all disarmed.

In the last few days several assaults have occurred, some serious.

Robberies by Kurds and Turks.

Christian village Shar in great danger. Kirej, Dash, Ofouh deserted by the inhabitants, who have fled to the mountains.

Inclosure 2 in No. 843.

Mr. Martin to Mr. Gibson.

(Extract.) *Hadjin, November 28, 1895.*

SHAR attacked by about 2,000 Circassians and sacked. No people actually killed it seems. The people fled towards Hadjin in a snow storm, and six children were born *en route*. Kaïmakam refused to have anything to do with them. 2,000 destitute refugees now in Hadjin, food supply short and roads impassible on account of brigands. New Kaïmakam has arrived.

Zeitoun Disturbances, October 26.—Inhabitants attacked soldiers and after fighting fifty hours, latter gave in, 200 escaped. Kaïmakam, Colonel, and 400 prisoners.

Redifs and Bashi-Bazouks sent from Marash attacked the villages on their way: what with war and famine, extermination of people seems probable.

The Kaïmakam, on the orders of the Vali, came to see Mr. Martin and said he had orders to protect him. What did he want? Martin replied without punishment of robbers of the villages in the district neither he nor any one was safe; their impunity has increased their numbers and audacity. Until this was done he desired zaptiehs all round his house and property. He also demanded impartial execution of law against wearing arms.

Four zaptiehs were thereupon sent.

Further news from Zeitoun:—

Five hundred Bashi-Bazouks and some regulars advanced towards Zeitoun on the 27th October destroying some Christian villages (his other date (26th) must be wrong). Next day the Zeitounlis attacked them as related. The letter describing this was written about the 13th, when an army of 5,000 (and increasing) was about five hours distant. Thousands of people taking refuge at Zeitoun, where food is running short.

Report at Hadjin that annihilation of Zeitounlis has been ordered.

Inclosure 3 in No. 843.

Mr. Martin to Mr. Gibson.

Hadjin, November 23, 1895.

(Extract.)

THE priest in Zeitoun has written to Mr. Dillon.

Zeitoun is in great danger. Numbers of troops on every side, but hopes that Hadjin will escape.

The arrival of the people of Shar.

No. 844.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 976.)

Constantinople, December 21, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo transmitting copy of a Petition from the Armenian Bishop of Alexandretta, containing a detailed account of the disturbances near Pyas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 844.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

Aleppo, December 2, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of a Petition which I have received from the Armenian Bishop of Alexandretta, containing a detailed account of the disturbances near Pyas, and describing the present pitiable condition of the Armenians, whose property has been destroyed during the recent fighting.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. D. BARNHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 844.

The Armenian Bishop of Alexandretta to Consul Barnham.

Dear Sir, *Alexandretta, November* 23, 1895.

I HAVE received the following true informations from priests of the villages of Payas, which I hurry to give you without change.

We were surrounded on the 15th October by numberless Bashi-Bazouks, mountaineers, and *Cherkez* (Circassians). First they burnt all the farms of our villages, numbering about thirty, and carried away all grain, horses, cows, oxen, and sheep. On the 20th October (11th November) wild Turks from mountains—even our neighbour Iskans—surrounded the village of Ojakly, and the following day the village of Uzerley, both populated by the Armenians; the people of both places took refuge at Chekmerzemen. The villages of Ojakly and Uzerley were first robbed and destroyed, and then burnt down entirely with their churches. On the 13th November the entire crowd of wild Turks, who were gathered from many places, began to march over Chekmerzemen, where there were gathered over 7,000 Armenian families. We were left eight days in smoke and bullets. The regular soldiers who were transferred there by the Turkish man-of-war (from Adana and Amaniyé) never took any steps to prevent the Bashi-Bazouks who were firing over us with their rifles, and who were robbing, destroying, and burning our houses, stores, and shops. This way they were encouraged by carelessness of the Government, did all kinds of cruelty and destruction. We had to use the means of self-defence and protection to raise our lives and families for eight days. We were behind the walls around our gardens; we were in greatest fear for eight days, and received very bad attacks—hungry and sleepless.

On one hand the weeping of our families and children, on the other hand the attacks of wild Turks with their bullets, left us in great misery and in a hopeless and critical condition. Even could be seen regular soldiers, rifles (Martini) in hands of Islams, who were marching over us. No doubt they were receiving them from the soldiers who were watching our massacre indifferently. Tabtiye soldiers also were taking part in the fight, helping the Turks. During that time Dr. Ichtekian, a citizen of America, and his American wife were here among us, and dressed the wounds and took care of our wounded. After the arrival of the American man-of-war at Alexandretta, the Commander of regular soldiers sent word to us that if we do not surrender within eight hours they were going to destroy our entire village with cannon. This last command caused us more disturbance, and encouraged the Bashi-Bazouk Turks. The Turkish Commander was offering us first to surrender and give up our arms, promising to us that they were going to drive away the Turks and Cherkez who were attacking us, and also promising to pay back all that was robbed and taken away from us; but to our deepest sorrow they did just the opposite. We were not revolutionist against the Government, and we had already told the Commander so. First they collected our arms from us, and the regular soldiers entered into our village and surrounded us, and left us in the same condition yet, whose arms had never been taken away from them or sent away, we are left without arms and helpless, and after collecting our arms they still ask for more. Now the wild Turk and Cherkez come more and more over us and without fear, and shoot any Armenian that dares to come out of the village; we have no arms now to protect our lives and families; we have no bread to feed our children, because the wild Turks and Cherkezes carried away all our winter food. If this our sad condition, we, thousands of families, shall die from hunger, and unprotected from the cold weather of winter. Our animals that are taken away from us are sold near Alexandretta and places near Adana, and the oranges of our gardens are sold to the Turks in the market-places of Alexandretta. In the gardens of oranges and lemons the trees are cut down which forms our wealth and life; all these things can be proved with a small and easy examination.

Hundreds of families from Ojakly Uzerley who were refuged at Chekmerzemen have lost their animals, houses, and furniture, their winter food, and are weeping over the ruins and ashes of their destroyed and burnt-down houses. The Turks have killed some of the Armenians who were left in Ojakly and Uzerley, and some of them are lost; we do not know what became of them.

For the sake of God and humanity please reform (?) our heartrending and sad condition wherever it is necessary, and come to help and save us from this misery. There is a great fear and dread continuing here, and our condition is worse now, because we are left hungry, without arms, and unprotected in our house and among our ruins, and the

wild Turk is still here. We shall soon be destroyed entirely; they continue still to kill the Armenians here. They kill every Armenian that comes out of his village; our condition is very dangerous. Help! Help! Help!

Armenian Bishop of Alexandretta,
(Signed) NERSES TASICELIAN.

P.S.—While I was bringing you this letter just this minute I received another letter from the priests of Payas, and they add the following information:—

Our condition is getting worse and worse. Two days ago Turkish soldiers and a large number of wild Turks attacked one of our churches in Chekmerzemen, and cut the head off of the keeper, and tried to kill one of the priests, but he escaped death. Now the Mudir is forcing the Armenians to go back to their burnt villages, and all the Armenian houses are burnt, but they are forcing us to go to the Turkish houses and live with Turks. We cannot trust our lives and families to Turks. We could not trust them before, and now never can do it.

On the one hand, Mutessarif is forcing us to pay taxes ("vergy"), soldiers are going into our houses and carrying away anything they find. On the other hand, the wild Turk is robbing us and carrying away by force. We have lost everything we had. We have nothing to pay for taxes. This time Government will take our children and lives for the Government taxes, because we have nothing else left.

N. T.

No. 845.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 30.*)

(No. 977. Confidential.)

Constantinople, December 21, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, reporting on the gravity of the general situation in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 845.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Aleppo, December 9, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, although there has been no renewal of disturbances within the vilayet since the date of my last report, I see much reason for grave anxiety as to the future.

There are indications that unless some striking remedy is found at once to remove the general distrust which pervades all classes, and unless some force is brought to bear upon the people which shall keep them under permanent control everywhere, there will soon be a general insurrection against the authority of the Sultan. This view is held by many of the officials here.

The resident Arab population is eager for a change of Government, but would only rise in arms if they had a good chance of success, for the leading men among them have land and houses to lose in case of failure, and, moreover, they are overawed by the present display of force in the city.

I hear that officials belonging to the Imperial Domains (Tchiftliki Humayoun) have been expelled by the Arabs from the villages belonging to the Sultan, with expressions of contempt for him and his Government.

Highway robbery is of daily occurrence.

As regards the recent disturbances in the north of the vilayet, I conclude that the loss of life during the massacre at Marash greatly exceeded the estimate of 800 given by Mr. Macallum. Indeed it is clear that the movements of the missionaries are so closely watched that it is impossible for them to obtain full information.

A telegraphic report had been received by the late Vali stating the number of killed at 150, and the information in the hands of the authorities had remained the

same until a few days ago, when a Christian arrived here from Marash, who was known to and trusted by the Ferik, and who gave him such a terrible account of the extent of the massacre that fresh inquiries was at once addressed to the Mutessarif.

The traveller referred to informed the Ferik that, besides the fires which occurred in three Christian quarters, many houses of Moslems were burnt, and he attributed this to the fact that hundreds of Moslems had left their homes unprotected, and were engaged in massacring the Armenians in the streets. He stated the number of the killed at nearly 3,000.

Inquiries were accordingly made, and the Mutessarif replied that he was preparing a list, that he was having a search made from house to house, and that many hundreds had been added to the list. In short, Edhem Pasha is convinced that the loss of life was extraordinary, but, while rejecting the estimate of Mr. Macallum as too small, we may be sure that 3,000 is excessive, and until we know better must assume that it was something between the two.

In consequence of the present state of things the Moslems of Marash, Killis, and other towns are reported to have invariably adopted the turban, in addition to the fez, to prevent doubt as to their identity.

I learn from the missionaries that, during the massacre in Aintab, the Reserves who belonged to that city behaved badly, while those from Biredjik behaved remarkably well. We have here an indication of what would have happened in Aleppo if a disturbance occurred and the local Reserves had not been removed. See my telegram to Mr. Herbert of the 31st October on the subject of the changing of the garrison here.

Outlying Villages.

While our attention has been mainly directed to the state of things in the towns, wholesale massacres have been perpetrated in the villages, and to a great extent in those which are away from the beaten track.

I saw a letter recently which stated that between the villages of Tchookmeziven and Slahyé the road is strewn with corpses in a state of putrefaction. The same thing is witnessed between Aintab and Uzun-Yayla.

Zeitoun.

The following is a history of events in the villages round Zeitoun from the commencement of the rising up to the 30th November. It is forwarded by the Armenian Bishop of Alexandretta, and is written from Zeitoun.

On the 1st November the Government troops came to the villages of Tasholug, Geokson, Bunbuk, Tavood, Kirechpounar, Guelpounar, Doguirmen, Deresi, and Heijig, and ordered the Headmen of the Armenians not to move from the villages, and not to join with Zeitoun. The Government authorities collected their arms, and then began to collect taxes, when the Armenians, understanding that they meant to attack them, sent their wives and children to Kirechpounar, as it was a mountainous place and better protected.

On the 4th November all these villages were attacked by regular Turkish troops, Kurds and Circassians, under Tcherkess Mehmet Bey, the Mudir of Geokson. For two or three days they turned the field of Geokson into smoke and ashes. There remain only the ashes of fifteen Armenian towns and villages in that region. Our wives and sisters were carried away as slaves to the harems of the Turks and Circassians.

As an instance of the destruction caused here, we instance one village, that of Tasholook, from which were taken 1,000 cattle, 170 donkeys, 50 horses, 1,000 goats, to say nothing of the grain, household furniture, beds, &c. This is, however, a war of reprisals, and we have ample evidence that the Zeitounlis have avenged themselves upon the Moslem villages near them.

I am glad to report a circumstance which suggests that our new Vali, his Excellency Zihni Pasha, is disposed to pursue a conciliatory policy towards the Armenians.

He has given instructions that no further attempt shall be made to compel the Armenians everywhere to disarm.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY B. BARNHAM.

No. 846.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 979.)

Constantinople, December 21, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Angora, transmitting a detailed account by Mr. Wingate of the massacre at Cæsarea.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 846.

Acting Consul Fontana to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, December 17, 1895.

Dear Sir P. Currie,

I BEG to inclose, for your Excellency's perusal, a letter I have just received from Mr. Wingate, an American missionary at Cæsarea, relating to the recent massacre there. The salient points of this letter seem to be the alleged laxity of the authorities in allowing several hours to elapse before taking decisive action and the apathy of the troops.

In Angora itself things are at present quiet, and no immediate disturbance is apprehended. The authorities have done their best to keep the peace. But at the same time I cannot but think that should the Turks once attack the Armenians, they would be unmolested for some hours at least, as was the case both at Marsovan and Cæsarea. Tewfik Pasha has prohibited the carrying of arms, so now the Turks conceal their knives under their scarves; nevertheless, the Armenians feel more reassured.

The new Vali is a very good man. He appears thoroughly upright and well-meaning, though a little deficient perhaps in energy. The disturbance at Cæsarea broke out on the very day of his arrival in Angora, and in the afternoon all the higher officials went to meet him at the station. This may explain perhaps to a certain extent the delay in the wiring of instructions to the Cæsarea authorities to put down the rioting by force. The Vali is very devout, and prays a great deal.

His Munyin is an Albanian, and appears to be an exceedingly intelligent and energetic official. He holds broad views, and in private conversations with me has bitterly bewailed the "Palace plague" and the wretched state of the country. Both he and Tewfik Pasha have at once acted on any friendly suggestion I have thought it my duty to make to them; nor do they endeavour to gloss things over as did the ex-Vali.

After the massacre at Cæsarea, I suggested to the Vali that the best way of putting an end to such occurrences in this vilayet would be to at once establish a court-martial in that town to summarily try and condemn a few of the ringleaders in the attack and have them promptly executed in public. He sent a telegram to that effect to Constantinople, and in answer received instructions to have the guilty parties punished, "Kanoun dairesinde," in accordance to law, which of course means nothing.

In conclusion, I may mention that a few days ago a couple of Turks here, half intoxicated and armed with long knives, attacked with great energy a small Armenian boy of some 12 summers, and succeeded in wounding him rather severely. However, the boy's cries attracted some zaptiehs, who arrested the men and took them off to prison. There they were badly flogged by the Alai Bey, and have now been expelled to Chorum.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) R. A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 846.

Mr. Wingate to Acting Consul Fontana.

Cæsarea, Turkey, December 12, 1895.

Dear Sir;

YOUR telegram, saying, "Have you written to me?" had just come, and I must confess to having neglected that duty owing to the pressure of work. Please pardon the

delay. But one post has left Cæsarea since the massacre began, and I hope to get this into the post, which is expected to leave to-day or to-morrow. I suppose that Mr. Fowle has already posted a letter to you, for he spoke to me of it last week.

The plundering and massacre began on Saturday afternoon, the 30th November, at from 9 to 9·30 o'clock Turkish. It broke out in all quarters at the same time, and raged with unabated fury for four hours. During that time no real effort was made by the military to check it, but after that time order was gradually restored, although there were outbreaks on Sunday and Monday mornings.

I watched the progress of things from the roof of my house, which is situated in the very heart of the city, and I report nothing as *fact* which I do not know from actual observation. Local Turks aided by villagers from neighbouring villages swept the streets, killing with knives and clubs every Armenian on whom they could lay hands.

A large part of the markets were gutted, and hundreds (note, thus far reported, 518 houses) of houses broken open and destroyed. I say *hundreds* deliberately.

Immense quantities of plunder were carried off by Turkish women, as well as by the men and boys. Soldiers confined themselves chiefly to gold, and articles easily concealed, although I saw some carrying off larger plunder. Soldiers, while taking bodies (not corpses) of Christians from the markets to the Government head-quarters for *safety*, robbed them of watches, gold, or anything of value.

This I know to be true from the most reliable evidence. In my presence a band of soldiers refused to do anything to protect a house near mine which was being plundered. I did not see a soldier kill any one, although I have no doubt that some of the Christians were shot by soldiers.

Women were most horribly mutilated. The universal procedure seems to have been to insist on their becoming Moslems. If they refused, they were cut down mercilessly—fairly hacked to death with knives, sickles, or anything which came handy.

The young women were taken off by the Turks and taken to Hadjilar, an adjacent village. Some have been returned, but others are still in the hands of the Turks.

The Government reports the number of killed as 320, but I believe that the total will be nearer 1,000. The Armenians are now making a careful canvass of the city, and will soon be able to report the number of missing. Many villagers were killed, but it is from the nature of the case impossible at present to make a record of them. I have noted above 518 houses plundered. This is the record thus far received, and the Returns are not all yet in. As to the wounded, many must die, for there are hundreds in fearful condition. I personally have seen not less than 100.

As to the cause of the outbreak, the Government, and it alone, should be held responsible. The Armenians have been perfectly quiet from first to last in Cæsarea, and never gave the slightest cause for disturbance. In this respect, Cæsarea has been quite different from many other places.

There is ample evidence, on the contrary, that the Government deliberately gave permission for plunder and murder to continue for four hours. Soldiers said so plainly while seated here in my house. The soldiers had positive orders not to fire on the rioters until orders to that effect should come from Constantinople! and such orders were conveniently delayed until the end of the four hours, i.e., at 1·30 o'clock Turkish.

During the past week the Government has been making a show of returning stolen property, and of helping the poor, but it goes a very little way towards repairing the damage done, and is, I believe, for political effect.

There have been attempts to get signatures to a paper, saying that Armenians are responsible for the outbreak, but thus far it has been a failure, for the Armenians have shown considerable nerve in the matter.

The Mutessarif has been deposed, but he is still here seeking signatures to a paper praising his good conduct.

Personally, I have to complain that no guard was placed at my house until Sunday afternoon, notwithstanding the fact that our Minister, on the 18th November, demanded that a guard should be placed at the residence of every American in the Empire.

My associates at Talas are well. There has been no disturbance at that place, and we hope that it is to escape.

Neither the markets, schools, nor churches have as yet opened, and some still fear a fresh outbreak, although I do not think it likely at present.

Everything depends on what occurs in Constantinople.

Later.—The number, 518 houses, had better be taken with a question mark for reports differ. Dr. Dodd tells me that he personally is ready to be responsible for the statement that at least three persons (Armenians) were shot by soldiers. These have come under his personal notice.

I am well aware that some statements made here may need revision, but it is the best I can give you at present.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) H. K. WINGATE.

No. 847.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 985.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1895.

IN consequence of the statement of the Minister of Police, reported in my despatch No. 958 of the 16th instant, that large numbers of Armenians were living in the American church at Galata, I caused inquiries to be made into the truth of this allegation.

It appears that there are thirty-three Armenians, who, after the evacuation of the churches in October, took refuge in one of the annexes of the Galata church. Most of them are domestic servants, who were in the service of Mussulman families, and have been dismissed in consequence of the events of the 30th September, while others are lodgers or porters in khans in the Mussulman quarters of the city, from which they have been expelled by the proprietors. Their continued presence in the church appears to be due to the action of the police, who are arresting destitute Armenians and deporting them, in many cases sending them to provinces to which they do not belong.

I am informed that the Armenian Patriarch has caused a list to be made of these refugees, giving their names, professions, and ages, and has come to an arrangement with the Minister of Police to have them sent to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 848.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 986.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1895.

SIRRI PASHA, whom the Sultan promised to name President of the Commission of Control for the Armenian provinces, died suddenly on the 12th instant. His appointment had not been carried into effect, and as yet no President has been chosen.

The Commission has for some time past met every day, but apparently transacts no business whatever.

My French and Russian colleagues and myself, however, thought it desirable to assert our right of communicating with it, and therefore sent our first Dragomans to inquire what progress it was making in its labours.

Mr. Block accordingly called on the Commission, and inquired whether any new Valis or other officials had been appointed. The Commissioners replied that they did not know, and that, in any case, it was not their business. Their only duty was to see if the reforms adopted were in conformity with the schedule of reforms. For instance, they had heard that Judicial Inspectors had been appointed, and had written to the Ministry of Justice to request information as to their powers and instructions, and also a copy of any Report they might send home. They had also written to ask how many new gendarmies had been appointed, and when and where; what was the provincial Budget of the Ministry of Public Instruction; and what was the proportional population of Moslems and Christians in the various sandjaks. It did not appear that they had received any answer to their inquiries, or that they had any intentions of changing their attitude of placid expectancy.

They did not know whether a new President would be appointed, but the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the First Dragoman of the French Embassy that the names of several candidates had already been submitted to the Council of Ministers. The Commission also did not know when Fethy Bey, the Adjoint of Shakir Pasha, would start, and said they could not make him go. It would appear that in reality Fethy Bey has resigned, though it is uncertain if his resignation has been accepted.

In consequence of this very unsatisfactory state of affairs, I consulted with my

French and Russian colleagues, and we decided to send our Dragomans to call upon the Foreign Minister and the Grand Vizier to ask what instructions had been given to the Commission of Control, and who was to be the new President.

The Foreign Minister said that he did not know what instructions had been given to the Commission, though he believed that a new President was to be appointed; he also pleaded ignorance as to what the duties of the Judicial Inspectors were.

The Grand Vizier said that the Commission's rôle was to see that the reforms carried out were in accordance with the schedule of reforms; that a new President would be appointed of superior rank, possibly Zihni Pasha; that Fethy Bey would be pressed to leave for his post; and that three new Muavins of Valis had been appointed. These three appointments appear in to-day's Turkish papers, and are as follows:—

Aristidi Effendi, a Greek, former Deputy Procureur-Général of the Vilayet of Aidin, appointed Muavin to the Vali of Sivas.

Andon Effendi, a Catholic Armenian, former Muavin to the Vali of Angora, appointed in the same quality in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

Selim Soussa Effendi, a Syrian, an official in the Administration of Posts and Telegraphs, appointed Muavin to the Vali of Erzeroum.

I hear that Aristidi Effendi has already resigned his post, and the Grand Vizier stated that three Muavins who had previously been appointed had also sent in their resignations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 849.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 987. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 986 of to-day's date, I have the honour to report that Fethy Bey, who was appointed Adjoint to Shakir Pasha, has stated, in conversation with members of the Embassy, that he had resigned on learning that Shakir Pasha had private instructions from the Palace not to meddle with the Kurds, or prevent them from pillaging Armenian villages, and further, that the instructions given to the Marshal were such that no man of honour could consent to act upon them.

He added that Shakir Pasha's salary was not paid, and that he had only received 50*l.* from the Government since the date of his appointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 850.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 988.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Turkish newspapers of the 21st December contained the official announcement that Hussein Riza Pasha, Vali of Adana, has been transferred to Salonica, and Hassan Fehmi Pasha, Vali of Salonica, to Aleppo.

Zihni Pasha, ex-Vali of Aleppo, still remains without a post, but, as reported in my despatch No. 986 of to-day's date, the Grand Vizier says that there is a possibility of his being appointed President of the Commission of Control.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 851.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 990.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, giving a list of the Armenian political prisoners at that place on the 16th December.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 851.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, December 16, 1895.

Sir,

I RECEIVED on the 14th instant your Excellency's telegram of the 13th, inquiring whether it be true that the principal Armenian Notables of Trebizond are in prison undergoing trial by court-martial.

Such was doubtless the case after the disturbance of the 8th October, but most of them have by now been released, though among the thirty-five still in gaol several are men of good position. This will be seen from the annexed list. The great secrecy maintained by the court-martial has rendered it impossible for me to find out the sentence passed on each prisoner; but the Governor-General has been able to ascertain and to communicate to me, confidentially, that seven of them are still under trial; that 6 have been sentenced to death and 3 to exile; 5 to five years' hard labour, 1 to ten, 1 to fifteen, and 1 for life; 3 to three years' confinement in a fortress, 2 to five and 2 to fifteen years.

My telegraphic reply of this day will have informed your Excellency that a priest, two merchants, a lawyer, a teacher, and a joiner have been condemned to death, that three were sentenced to exile, and that twenty-two have received terms of imprisonment from three years upwards. I also ventured therein to refer to my despatch of the 4th instant, which contains some remarks on the proceedings of Salih Pasha, the President of the court-martial at Trebizond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

List of Armenian Political Prisoners at Trebizond on December 16, 1895.

No.	Name.	Birthplace.	Age.	Occupation.
1	Der Vahan Khozian ..	Trebizond ..	40	Priest (ex-Vicar).
2	Hadjee Mardiros Arabian ..	Gurun ..	70	Merchant.
3	Hetoum Diradourian ..	Trebizond ..	42	Ditto.
4	Hemayag Fetvadjian ..	,, ..	20	Ditto.
5	Hagop Shavarsh ..	Erzinghian ..	45	Ditto.
6	Hagop Dermegherditchian ..	Erzeroum ..	34	Ditto.
7	Vartkes Derahanian ..	Erzinghian ..	31	Ditto.
8	Marcos Tokatlian ..	Kerassonde ..	55	Ditto (Member of Idareh Medjliss).
9	Harountun Shehrighian ..	Trebizond ..	40	Lawyer.
10	Dr. Elia Eusberian ..	Diabekir ..	50	Doctor.
11	Ohanes Bouyouklian ..	Trebizond ..	37	Teacher.
12	Kirkor Vartanian ..	,, ..	28	Ditto.
13	Arshak Philizian ..	,, ..	35	Ditto (Protestant).
14	Hadjee Vram Kasparian ..	Erzinghian ..	30	Shavarsh's clerk.
15	Vartan Derhompartzoumian ..	Trebizond ..	20	Clerk.
16	Marong Totossian ..	,, ..	44	Joiner.
17	Kirkor ,, ..	,, ..	40	Silversmith.
18	Stepan ,, ..	,, ..	53	Joiner.
19	Setrak Arakelian ..	,, ..	24	Tailor.
20	Stepan Kasparian ..	,, ..	22	Ditto.
21	Mihtad ,, ..	,, ..	29	Régie clerk.
22	Armenag ,, ..	,, ..	24	Coffee-shop keeper.
23	Stepan Aslanian ..	,, ..	30	Barber.
24	Hagop Kahvedjian ..	,, ..	21	Ditto.
25	Boghos Aslanian ..	,, ..	30	Carpenter.
26	Hadjee Minas Tutundjian ..	,, ..	30	Innkeeper.
27	Hadjee Vartan Amamian ..	,, ..	45	Ditto.
28	Bedros Avedissian ..	,, ..	35	Manufacturer.
29	Alphonse Kentchian ..	,, ..	30	Servant (Armeno-Catholic).
30	Serkis Gagossian ..	,, ..	44	Greengrocer.
31	Boghos Minassian ..	,, ..	22	Mason.
32	Apraham Avedian ..	,, ..	32	Villager.
33	Bagdasar ,, ..	,, ..	28	Ditto.
34	Kirker ,, ..	,, ..	25	Ditto.
35	Megherditch Minassian ..	,, ..	35	Ditto.

No. 852.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 991.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 24, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond on the state of affairs in the Sivas Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 852.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, December 17, 1895.

Sir,

DR. JEWETT, at Sivas, reports as follows, under date the 10th December:—

"Nothing of any special importance has occurred here since my last letter. On the 8th October it was reported that a large number of Turks were attacking the villages in the region of Tonous, which had escaped so far because they were guarded by hired armed Turks. The Government sent eighty soldiers to protect the villages, but it appears they were sent too late. The Bishop of Ashudee was burnt. Three priests at Gurun were killed, and one saved his life by becoming a Mahommedan. Three Protestant chapels were burnt there, but the Gregorian and Catholic Armenian churches were protected by soldiers. No Catholics were killed, and none of their houses were burnt.

"The Government relief work and the restitution of stolen property is all a sham. It is reported to the Bishop that the police sent out to recover stolen property in the villages restored little or nothing, and demanded considerable sums of money from the Armenians.

"About a dozen Turks have been arrested at Sivas. I have heard of but four Armenians being arrested since the massacre. The Government is searching for certain pardoned political prisoners. A few days ago a teacher of the Protestant school was arrested on suspicion of having written a letter of doubtful import. The Commissary of Police threatened to torture him, and told him if the foreign Powers interfered every Armenian would be killed. Last Thursday the Chiefs of the Armenian community were formally told the same thing by the Colonel of the Gendarmerie. He said there were now thirty Turks to one Armenian, and not an Armenian would be left if the Powers interfered."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 853.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 992.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 24, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 950 of the 15th December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting that Mr. Jewett estimated the number of lives lost in the massacres at Amassia and Marsovan at a far lower figure than that given in my above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 853.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, December 17, 1895.

Sir,

I AM glad to be able to state that Dr. Jewett believes the loss of life in the Amassia and Marsovan disturbances to have been considerably less than 1,600, the number given in the inclosure to my despatch of the 2nd instant, as will be seen from the following extract of his letter to me, dated Sivas, 10th December:—

"I think your reports regarding Marsovan and Amassia were inaccurate. My information is that not more than 150 Armenians and no Turks were killed at Marsovan, and sixty-one Armenians at Amassia. It is said that Bekir Pasha, the Mutessarif, nearly lost his life, because, with a handful of zaptiehs, he stopped the massacre against the will of the soldiers.

"I am told that 114 were killed at Zilleh, 317 at Douslasar, 500 at Cæsarea. The number killed at Gurun is variously estimated from 1,200 to 3,000; 150 boys and girls were carried off at Gurun; a considerable number at Cæsarea."

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 854.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 993.)

Constantinople, December 24, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, embodying a letter from Mr. Jewett, on the subject of the Sivas massacres, which he is convinced were carried out by order of the Government and without any provocation on the part of the Armenians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 854.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, December 17, 1895.

Sir,

IN his letter of the 10th instant, Dr. Jewett replies as follows to my questions as to whether the massacres in the Sivas Vilayet were in any way provoked by Armenians:—

"If there is any doubt in your mind that the recent massacres were not under Government patronage, such doubt does not exist in my mind. Some branch of the Government ordered the massacres or some clique that appears in the guise of the highest authority.

"For a long time there had been talk of a massacre of Christians here, and previous to the 20th October, I think such talk was originated in part by revolutionary Armenians. They wanted trouble then, but after the reforms were granted all the Armenians kept very quiet, and most of them were ready to put up with all manner of annoyances and wrongs rather than give any excuse for disturbances.

"The Turks afterwards said that they were going to massacre the Christians, and several Armenians say that they were warned by Turkish friends that the massacre was going to occur on the morning of the 12th November. On the 11th, some Armenians closed their shops and others wanted to close on the 12th instant, but by order of the Vali, the Armenian Priests went about the city and told the Armenians they must keep open.

"The Mayor told some of the leaders of the people that morning that the Armenians should go on with their business as usual and that nothing would happen.

"The Vali who is generally prolific in finding charges against the Armenians, seems to have no good explanation of the origin in this affair on the part of the Armenians. At first, he told me that it was started by an Armenian suddenly crying out in the market, 'Gurun is burning.' Later, he said the Armenian signal which started the affair was the cry 'A mad buffalo is coming!' But neither he nor anyone else that I have heard, claim that

the Armenians did anything in the way of attacking the Turks. The Vali said to me that after the Armenians had talked so much about what they were going to do, he expected to see some fighting, or at least, some sort of resistance, but he was disappointed, and he said he could not find words to express his contempt for the chivalry of a people who would allow themselves to be thus cut down without any show of self-defence.

"To my mind the reason they did not attempt any self-defence was because the mob was composed largely of soldiers and zaptiehs.

"Armenians say the signal was given by Bazarbashi Shukri, and that, suddenly in all parts of the market, the Turks, Karslis, and Circassians began killing and plundering.

"As soon as I heard the firing commence in the market, I saw Bashi-Bazouks, soldiers, and zaptiehs rushing in that direction, and later, I saw the soldiers ladened with spoils.

"The affair began at 6·30 (Turkish), which I think was about half-an-hour before noon. As it commenced, people say, the soldiers sounded the trumpets 'To Arms.' The Muezzin called from a minaret near the Consulate 'La illah il Allah' and not a call to prayers.

"That the soldiers and zaptiehs, and even the officers did a large part of the killing, admits of no doubt.

"An exceptionally reliable Armenian says, positively, he heard the Lieutenant-General shout out to the soldiers and Bashi-Bazouks as he rode through the streets just as the affair commenced, 'the city is delivered up to you for three hours.' Other Armenians say that the next morning, the Mufti went through the market, and said to some of the rioters, 'are you not ashamed to keep up for twenty-four hours when the order was only for three.' The Vali, Ferik, Cadi, and Alai Bey kept away from the scene of disorder until quite late in the day or until the next day. An officer with a squad of soldiers in the market cried out, 'let the Mahommedans stand aside; we are going to kill the Giaours.' The Commissary of Police and a Lieutenant say the soldiers might easily have stopped the riot if they had wanted to.

"The French Dragoman gives me the following items as reliable. A Turkish woman said to him that they killed the Armenians at the order of the Government, and the plunder was what they got for doing the work. Bekir Chaoush said, in his presence, that he killed 48. When asked if it was not murder, he said, no. It might have been murder, he said, if he had done it on the order of one of his superior officers, but when the orders came from the Caliph it was right. On the 6th, a Turk, from whom the Government was demanding some stolen goods, objected to giving them up, and said they had done these things by the order of the Government and had got the plunder at great risk to their lives. He was immediately arrested and put in heavy chains. The next morning he was found dead in his cell.

"The Kurds quite universally say they received orders from 'high quarters' to massacre and plunder the Armenians.

"I am told that at a village near Tokat the Turks wanted to go for the Armenians but were restrained by the Turkish Bey of the village. Two or three days later they produced some sort of a written order. The Bey then told the Armenians he could protect them no longer. He went to Tokat and showed the paper to the Mutessarif, who said it was a very important document and kept it.

"At Marsovan and Amassia the affair lasted about three-and-a-half hours. The missionaries at Cesarea tell me there is undoubted evidence that the Government gave permission for the massacre to continue four hours.

"At Marsovan, the Armenians say they were warned that the massacre would occur on the 15th, as it did. On the next day there were fears of another massacre, and a soldier at the college was asked if it was going to be renewed. He replied, that he did not know. If it was ordered it would be renewed, and if it was not ordered it would not be.

"A prominent Ulema, at Amassia, told Mr. Krug that orders came three months ago to massacre the Armenians, but they did not do it because the Armenians were armed. Orders came again recently, he said, and they were promised the assistance of the soldiers.

"Last Saturday the Vali said that if the Armenians at Gurun had given up their arms he would have given them a written promise that no one should be harmed, and this disaster would have been avoided; an admission that the business was in his control.

"I might give you much more evidence of this sort, showing that the Government did it, but I think you must have sufficient."

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 855.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 30.*)

(No. 994.) *Constantinople, December 24, 1895.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting a remark made by Abdullah Pasha to Mr. Jewett respecting the opposition of Russia to the execution of any real reforms in Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 855.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.) *Trebizond, December 17, 1895.*

Sir,

IN connection with my despatch of the 25th ultimo, I beg leave to quote the following paragraph from Dr. Jewett's letter to me of the 10th instant:—

"Abdullah Pasha told me that when Russia agreed to the scheme of reforms she gave Turkey to understand that they must not be carried out. He said that if reforms had been seriously introduced in Anatolia ten years ago it would have been the signal for a war with Russia. When asked why Turkey did not brace up and introduce real reforms now, he replied, with a smile: "Il faut avoir un Gouvernement pour cela."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 856.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 30.*)

(No. 995.) *Constantinople, December 24, 1895.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 862 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum respecting the origin of the disorders at Erzinghian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 856.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, December 9, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatches of the 6th and 12th ultimo, on the subject of the disorders at Erzingian, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, according to a letter received from a person who can be trusted, the official version as to the attack on Armenians in that place having been provoked by the killing of an Imam is incorrect.

The first Turk to be killed was a shopkeeper, who—like most of the Mussulman mob there and in other towns—had bound a white turban round his head, and may have been taken for a Mollah or even an Imam. He, moreover, was only killed after fifteen or twenty Armenians had lost their lives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 857.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 30.*)

(No. 996.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 24, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum, inclosing a despatch from Mr. Hampson, reviewing the situation in the Bitlis Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 857.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, December 9, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush, reviewing the situation in the Bitlis Vilayet.

Mr. Hampson states that, though things are quiet at Mush itself, the news from the surrounding cazas is not reassuring, and that the prospect of a general improvement is not encouraging.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 857.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Mush, December 3, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to report that all has been quiet here during the past week, though the feeling of uneasiness and despondency as to the future has not decreased, either in Mussulman or Christian quarters.

The calling out of the Redifs, of whom some 150 have now been collected in this town, rather adds to than diminishes this feeling, both because the Reserve soldiers are always most difficult to keep under proper control, and because of the prevailing idea that this measure must have some serious ulterior motive.

Even the effect of the news of the decoration bestowed on the Mutessarif for his conduct on the occasion of the riot of the 15th ultimo, though undoubtedly good, has been somewhat discounted by the openly expressed belief that it is only meant by the Central Government as a blind to outsiders.

I learn on the best authority that the judicial authorities are demanding a bribe to release the Armenians arrested in connection with the disorders here, as reported in my despatch of the 26th November; in fact, I was asked whether they should give it or not, but declined to express any opinion.

From the surrounding cazas the news is not reassuring. In Chabakchour (Guendj Sandjak) it is said that all the remaining Armenians have been forced to become Mussulmans. From Sairt the accounts of massacres and pillaging are very bad. In Varto the Armenians are absolutely destitute; and though the ringleader of Kurdish outrages in that district, Ibo (*vide* my despatch of the 9th October), has now been brought as a nominal prisoner to Mush, this was effected through the instrumentality of the notorious Sidi Agha, of this town, who did not fail to profit by his mission to exact enormous toll from the Christians of that region in cattle, &c. I have this fact from a Turkish zaptieh in his suite.

The employment of agents of bad character, like Sidi Agha, on Government missions to the Kurds, with whom they are supposed to have influence, is very common. Hajji Taib (*vide* my despatch of the 24th July) is frequently so employed, generally with bad results; and recently orders were sent to the Sheikh of Zeilan to use his influence to keep the Kurds of Sasun in order. The Sheikh, however, luckily died at his village near Hasso about three weeks ago. The statement which I have seen in English papers, that he led

the Kurds to the massacre in Diarbekir, is therefore not correct. I understand, however, that a certain Zeilan Pasha, also a Kurd, took a prominent part in that massacre.

From what is known here, the massacres in Diarbekir, Arabkir, and Kharpout have been terrible, the victims amounting to at least several thousands, and the property destroyed enormous.

In Bitlis all the efforts of the authorities are now directed to proving that the Armenians were the cause of the outbreak there, and to implicating the missionaries. I learn that the Armenian prisoners have been forced, by torture, to sign a telegram to Constantinople to that effect, and that many signatures to a similar telegram have been obtained from other of the Armenian inhabitants by threats of a further massacre. The missionaries state that, as far as they know, only one Mussulman was killed in the last massacre.

The prospect is very black. Apart from the very large number of victims in the recent massacres, famine threatens the survivors. The Government chests are empty; and though efforts are being made to collect taxes, it is a hopeless endeavour. Officials, soldiers, and police are unpaid, and consequently discontented; and now the Reserves will cause extra expenses. It is difficult to see any solution of the situation.

I can vouch for the accuracy of the following remarks, made yesterday in private conversation by one of the most influential Mussulman inhabitants of Mush, which seem to me of some interest:—

"Of course, we know that it is all nonsense to say that the Armenians started the massacres in Erzeroum, Bitlis, &c. But, after the disorders in Constantinople, instructions were received from above to massacre and to put the blame on the Armenians, and naturally these instructions were followed. Here in Mush the Mutessarif seems to have had different orders; and, moreover, as we Mussulmans here are poor, we don't want to cut off our only source of money. But Europe will learn the truth, and then what will happen? Probably the Russians will come. If so, we shall certainly be told to kill the remaining Armenians; we shall finish them, and the Russians will finish us, and there will be the end. But even if the Russians should not come, we know that Turkey is played out. All the money, in these parts at least, came from the Armenians; we have now ruined the Armenians, and there is no money for the Government or for anything else. Of course, the country cannot possibly go on."

With such views openly expressed by intelligent and influential Turks, and utter disbelief in the efficacy of any reforms at present contemplated, the hope of any improvement seems very small.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 858.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 997.) *Constantinople, December* 24, 1895.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 959 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum, inclosing a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the situation in the Van Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 858.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, December 10, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to forward a further despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting that the affairs in that town had more or less resumed their ordinary course, though considerable apprehension of danger still existed, principally owing to the presence of the Redifs.

Mr. Hallward also mentions the repulse by soldiers of a Kurdish attack on the Armenian village of Archag.

With reference to his statement that the three notorious Kurdish Chiefs, Hussein, Emin, and Tamir, had been summoned to Erzeroum, I have to add that such is the case, but none have arrived yet, and it is somewhat doubtful if they will obey. Hussein, for one, is to be tried by court-martial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 858.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Cumberbatch.

Van, December 4, 1895.

Sir,

AFFAIRS in this vilayet have now more or less resumed their ordinary course; the Kurds, having plundered most of what there was to plunder in the Christian villages, have returned home to enjoy the fruits of their labours. The soldiers who had been sent to guard the villages have also been withdrawn at the request of the villagers, who say they prefer to take their chance of being robbed by the Kurds rather than have to support the soldiers any longer.

There remains, however, considerable apprehension in the town, and most of the shops in the bazaars are still closed. They were first closed on the arrival, on the 26th October, of the news of the massacre at Bitlis, and since then have never been altogether reopened, in spite of the efforts of the authorities to inspire confidence in the Armenians. One of the chief causes of apprehension at present is the presence of the Redifs, who, not being paid by the Government, would, the Armenians think, be glad of an opportunity for plunder, and there is also a feeling of distrust among the Armenians as to the intentions of the Government towards them. At the same time the suspension of all business in the town is impoverishing the population to such a degree that, if an authoritative promise could be given from Constantinople, I believe the merchants would be glad to resume their business, even though they might fear they were incurring some risk in so doing.

As far as I can judge, the Government appears to consider that things have gone far enough against the Christians. An attack of Kurds on the large village of Archag, four hours to the east of this, was repulsed by the soldiers, and some of the Kurds were killed; and the Vali tells me that the Kurd Pashas, Hussein, Emin, and Tamir, have been summoned to Erzeroum. If it is true that these men are at Erzeroum, I would beg to urge most strongly that they should not be allowed to return home, but, if not otherwise punished, should at least be banished to some distant part of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 859.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 998. Confidential.) *Constantinople, December* 24, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum, reporting a conversation he had had with Shakir Pasha respecting the difficulties he encountered in the proper execution of his duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 859.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Secret and Confidential.) *Erzeroum, December* 11, 1895.

Sir,

IN an interview I had with Shakir Pasha yesterday I read to him the speech made by the Marquess of Salisbury at Brighton on the 19th ultimo, as reproduced in the "Times."

His Excellency thanked me cordially, and after expressing the fullest concurrence with the words of his Lordship respecting the absence of competent Turkish statesmen, he volunteered an account of his personal experience since he accepted his present mission, showing that, like other well-intentioned officials, he has had difficulties to encounter from the very beginning, from certain quarters.

He agreed with me that great culpability had been shown by several of the Valis in the Armenian vilayets, especially by Tahsin Pasha, ex-Vali of Bitlis, who, like Memdouh Pasha when Vali of Sivas and Angora, grossly exaggerated the puerile agitation of the Armenians whilst hiding the faults of the officials, thus misleading the Sultan. He only spoke well of Rnouf Pasha, the Vali of Erzeroum, formerly at Kharput.

He assured me that he had done his best to restore order in these provinces, and that he thought he had succeeded. That he was still engaged in recovering pillaged goods from the Kurds, and that he was doing his utmost to prevent further attacks on the lives and property of Armenians, as well as to remedy the disastrous effects of the recent disorders.

He owned that it was the most difficult and trying task that had ever been confided to him, and that he felt that when it was over he will have had enough of active service, and would retire into private life.

Though he tries not to show it, a noticeable depression of spirits has come over him since the recent events, which have increased his task a hundred-fold, and his language is of a less hopeful tone than it was before. Perhaps he has reasons to fear that there may be an attempt made by his enemies at Constantinople to throw the whole blame on his shoulders in connection with the massacres, &c., or he may be affected by the persistent refusal of the Palace to give him full freedom of action, which he has asked for more than once.

In leaving me, he said he had always desired that his doings in connection with the contemplated reforms should be made public, and had, in fact, asked the Sultan to allow him to be accompanied by a correspondent of a London newspaper, which, he regrets, was not considered feasible, and he promised to keep me informed of any measures that are adopted in conformity with the scheme approved of by His Imperial Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 860.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 999.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 916 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum, giving further instances of forced conversions to Islam.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 860.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, December 12, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, I have the honour to forward some further details received by me in a letter dated Kharput, the 23rd ultimo, on the subject of forced conversions of Armenians to Islamism.

At Ichmeh, the chief town of the Tcharsandjak Caza, a week after the raid upon it, during which several Armenians were killed and some houses burnt, a large number of their leading men were in their church; they were brought out one by one by the Turks and asked if they would accept Islamism. Thirty, among them their priest, remained true to their faith, and were killed at the church-door.

At Ouzounova, a Protestant Armenian village 5 miles from Ichmeh, the inhabitants, after being robbed of their goods and stripped of their outer garments, were told that they must become Moslems. Ten were killed for refusing, and fifty-five men, women, and children threw themselves into the Euphrates and were drowned sooner than apostatize.

Only three Armenian villages in the Tcharsandjak Caza have been spared, owing to the conversion of the inhabitants; all the rest were plundered, and have since been pressed to become Moslems.

Peri was attacked by Kurds on the 6th November and plundered. On the 8th, a Sheikh, called Deli Musta, accompanied by four soldiers, went from house to house in the Armenian quarter proclaiming that those who did not accept Islamism would be killed. Those that consented were to put a sign on their houses. Many remained firm, including the Protestant preacher, who escaped to Kharput, but 550 accepted Islamism.

In the village of Hoh, six hours from Kharput, and containing 150 Armenian houses, the inhabitants, after being plundered by the Kurds, were told that they must accept Islamism, which they assented to, but when they were gathered in the mosque to make their formal declaration of apostacy, they were told that they were pretending, and sixty-two were forthwith killed, ten escaping with wounds only. Their church was burnt.

When my informant wrote, the pressure upon Christians in the neighbourhood of Kharput was still great, and it had not wholly ceased in the town itself, but the authorities having been acquainted with the fact, there is no longer any open persecution.

It is calculated that many thousands in the Kharput Vilayet have formally accepted Mahommedanism to save their lives. Many of them are now in great distress of mind, and when the excitement is passed it is thought that they will prefer death to retaining Islamism.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 861.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 1000.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Erzeroum reporting on the position of affairs in his Consular district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 861.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, December* 13, 1895.

THOUGH we have ceased to hear of any more disorders in these provinces, the atmosphere is still full of uneasiness and the Armenians, both in towns and villages, continue to live in abject terror of their Mussulman neighbours and the soldiery, especially the Redifs, whose want of discipline is well known, and business continues at a standstill.

The authorities are earnest enough in their endeavours to maintain order, and, by the reorganization of the police and gendarmerie forces, as contemplated in the scheme of reforms, they hope to re-establish security for life and property and thus encourage a revival of the interrupted business traffic.

The chief difficulties in the way in repairing the disastrous effects of the late disorders are the widespread ruin in both the trading and agricultural classes and the consequent impoverishment of the public revenues.

Whether, under the circumstances, the Turkish Government will prove equal to the task of establishing a satisfactory state of things, not only in a political sense by a thorough execution of the reforms, but also in an economical one by giving State aid to the trading and agricultural elements, remains to be seen, and, under the most favourable conditions, the operation can but be a slow one.

So far, there have been Commissions and Sub-Commissions appointed, and any amount of correspondence, principally telegraphic, has been taking place between Shakir Pasha

and the Government since the acceptance by the Sultan of the reforms in these provinces, but as yet no radical measure of improvement has been actually adopted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 862.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 1001.) *Constantinople, December 24, 1895.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 926 and 927 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo on the subject of the recent massacres in his Consular district and the present position of affairs at Zeitoun and Aleppo.

I instructed Mr. Block to speak to the Foreign Minister and the Grand Vizier about the necessity of maintaining Edhem Pasha in his post as Commandant of the troops in the Vilayet of Aleppo, and of the calamitous effect that would be produced by the appointment of Bahri Pasha, ex-Vali of Van, to a high post.

The Grand Vizier informed Mr. Block that there was no intention of removing Edhem Pasha from his command or of appointing Bahri Pasha as Vali; indeed, Hassan Fehmi Pasha had been appointed to that post.

Bahri Pasha's actual appointment as Commander of the Reserves at Aleppo was not an important one, and must be considered an inferior one for a man who had occupied the position of Vali. He was under the orders of Edhem Pasha.

In reply to a remark of Mr. Block's that the Porte would incur a great responsibility in the event of any misconduct on the part of the Redifs, of whom there were 2,000 against 1,000 regulars in Aleppo, the Grand Vizier said that he had no fears on the subject.

I have instructed Mr. Block to repeat his representations at the Palace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 862.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.) *Aleppo, December 6, 1895.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, in continuation of my despatches Nos. 60 and 61, on the subject of the recent massacres, that the Rev. Mr. Macallum, of Marash, in a letter dated the 26th ultimo, draws my attention to the fact that during the massacre of the 18th ultimo the American Mission buildings were left without a guard during eight hours, from 7 A.M. to 3 P.M., and that it was only when the Seminary had caught fire that soldiers were sent to protect them. This was in disregard of repeated urgent instructions sent from Aleppo that morning.

I have seen no eye-witness of the massacre who can explain how all the troops were occupied during those hours. The reserves appear to have been occupied in looting the town and shooting down the Armenians, but there must have been troops under control who took no part in the looting, for the massacre was finally stopped, and they must have done it. The orders sent by the Ferik, both in the case of Aintab and Marash, were "to do all that was possible to save the town, but first, and above all, to save the American Mission." The value of the Seminary at Marash is stated at 2,000*l.*

Mr. Macallum informs me that he had since gone over the city, and made careful inquiry as to the result of the massacre, and he states the total number of victims to be about 800. Of these most were shot, but many, including some women, perished in the flames, and, naturally, nearly all were Armenians. Very few Christian houses escaped plunder, and 150 were burnt, and, although the authorities had since endeavoured to recover some of the stolen property, and to store it in the mosques until claimed, the amount recovered was not a hundredth part of what had been taken.

I have shown that the real cause of the massacre was the excitement produced by the news of the burning of Andrin, but Mr. Macallum writes that the authorities put forward as a reason and excuse that letters had been found proving that the Christians intended to rise, join forces with the people of Zeitoun, and exterminate the rulers.

To prevent the accomplishment of this design the Government took active measures; in other words, the soldiers, plundering, killing, burning, are represented as an arm of the law acting in the cause of peace and order. Since the massacre at Marash the Catholic monastery at Yenijé Kalé, west of Marash, has been plundered and burnt by Kurds.

Mr. Macallum makes an appeal to the charitable for immediate subscriptions on behalf of the destitute. As he says, the suffering is already great, and as the winter advances it will be appalling. There is plenty of grain in the vilayet, so that, if money is forthcoming, food can easily be supplied, but the need of warm clothing is as great, for the winter in that part of the vilayet is exceptionally severe. The question of distributing relief under existing circumstances is very difficult, but it must be considered at once, or many hundreds will perish. I spoke to the Ferik on the subject yesterday, and he expressed himself as most anxious that something should be done, and pledged himself to see that it was distributed impartially and in safety, and I know no one who could more worthily be associated with such a task.

Zeitoun.

It has become difficult to obtain early information as to the expedition against Zeitoun, because the control of the military operations was last week removed from the hands of Edhem Pasha, the Ferik of Aleppo, so that Mustafa Remzi Pasha, the Ferik at Marash, now acts in accordance with instructions conveyed to him directly from the Palace. The fight is now to be carried on to the bitter end.

When I proposed to your Excellency that a Commission should be sent to Zeitoun to endeavour to persuade the rebels to submit, I had little hope that it would result in success, but I felt that an attempt should be made to do so, and, if possible, that the task should be entrusted to persons known to myself and the Ferik, as most fitted for so delicate a mission. I know no one at Marash except the missionaries; nor have I yet heard the names of the Christian Notables from that place who were chosen to proceed to Zeitoun to treat with the rebels, but, whoever they may be, the fact remains that the proposal has been rejected in insulting terms in a letter written by the Hunchag leader Aghassé from the "Government of Zeitoun" to the "Representative of the Ottoman Government at Marash." It is, of course, possible that the letter from Mustafa Remzi Pasha to the Zeitounlis announcing the Commission was offensive, for the Turks are exasperated at the delay, and anxious to finish the campaign before the snow lies deep, this especially on account of the deplorable condition of the Reserves, who are suffering greatly from dysentery.

The refusal to accept the Commission, coupled with the murder of seven out of the thirty prisoners who remained in their hands, has decided the authorities to advance upon Zeitoun in force, and at once.

A Mulazim (Lieutenant) and six gunners were put to death last week, and the Ferik tells me that, although not certain of the facts, he conjectures that the Zeitounlis had ordered them to place the guns for them or to instruct them in their use, and that they were killed for refusing to do so.

Aghassé appears to have absolute power over the people of Zeitoun, and he is a desperate man. He knows that his life is forfeit to the Turks if he falls into their hands (he and the other Hunchagists who are with him), and they would never allow the thought of surrender to be entertained for a moment.

The position of the Ottoman troops was, until a few days ago, the same as described in my last Report, with the exception that Mirahi Bey, having received two mountain-guns from Marash, has again advanced upon Zeitoun, and occupies a position about three and a-half hours south-west of that place. There are four roads which lead to Zeitoun, and all are occupied by troops. Two lead into Zeitoun from the direction of Adana, and two from Marash. One route from Marash crosses the Hamidé, a wooden bridge over the Jihan River, about 16 miles north of the town; the other crosses the river at a point further north, by a stone bridge (the Jihan Kyupru), which has been practically destroyed. The road, in both cases, is extremely difficult, over mountains, covered with dwarf oak. I write from a recollection of having travelled from Zeitoun over the Jihan Bridge some years ago.

Hadjin.

I have received a letter from the Rev. Mr. Martin, dated the 23rd ultimo, in which he reports that there are now in Hadjin about 2,000 people, who have fled from the surrounding villages, and are without food or shelter.

He describes the sacking of the village of Shar on the 16th ultimo by 2,000 Circassians, collected from twenty-three villages, on the south-western boundary of the Provinces of Sivas and Aleppo, and adds that the people, robbed of everything, fled with their little children, their aged and infirm, towards Hadjin. They were two days and two nights in a snowstorm, with scarcity of food, and no shelter. Six children were born on the way, of whom three died.

Aleppo.

I am reassured as to the situation in this city: firstly, because Edhem Pasha remains in command; and, secondly, because the garrison has been reinforced by regular troops from the Vilayet of Aidin. Several military Pashas have recently come to Aleppo from Constantinople, their coming being attended with mystery, and their position not well understood since their arrival.

The first of these was Bahri Pasha, the late Vali of Van, who was described in a telegram from the Kaimakam of Alexandretta to the Vali, reporting his arrival as "the newly-appointed Commandant of Aleppo." This, however, was disproved on his arrival, when he took over the command of the Reserves from Selim Pasha. A few days later news arrived that another Ferik (Lutfi Pasha) was on the road from Alexandretta, and at the same time a strong rumour spread in the city that Edhem Pasha was to be removed. It is impossible to describe the consternation which this produced among the Christian population, and I may say, to a large extent, among the Moslem population also. Many families decided at once to leave for the coast. Passports were applied for, and carriages ordered; but happily it proved to be only one of the unfounded scares which have been troubling the public mind since the commencement of the disturbances. My conviction, however, is that the safety of Aleppo depends upon Edhem Pasha alone, and that, if he is removed, there will be immediate panic. Every one will at once try to escape to the coast, and a massacre will follow. There are, unquestionably, people in the city who are anxious for an explosion, men who are known to, who have been warned by, and who fear the Ferik. Also, the number of Armenians in the city has been under-estimated. I believe that there are about 7,000 altogether, and many of them are very much in public view as gate-keepers in khans, oda-bashis (hotel servants), and porters. A large proportion are strangers to Aleppo, and are now saddened and embittered by the belief or knowledge that their homes in Arabkir, Kharput, and Gurun have been destroyed. These are considerations which cannot be treated lightly, and show that the people require to be carefully watched.

The military force at present in the city is about 3,000, of whom 2,000 are Reserves and the remainder regulars. The Ferik places all his faith in the latter, of whom he speaks very well, and he is about to protect the European suburbs of Jamilié and Azizié by filling the Rushdié School, opposite his own house, with these men, so as to have them at his immediate call night and day.

In ordinary times there is one regiment of cavalry at Aleppo, but more than half of the men are now doing duty at Aintab and Marash. The remainder are, for the most part, unmounted; but he has just received orders and a grant of money to purchase horses, and hopes soon to have a serviceable force in hand.

His Excellency Zihni Pasha, the newly-appointed Vali of Aleppo, arrived here on the 29th ultimo. In connection with this event, I have learnt that a party at Constantinople, represented by Dervish Pasha, is moving the Sultan to appoint Bahri Pasha to this post. I sincerely trust this will not be permitted, and it would give great satisfaction if he were removed from here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

No. 863.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 30.*)

(No. 1002.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 24, 1895.*

IN the Sultan's message communicated to your Lordship in Mr. Herbert's despatch No. 791 of the 11th November, His Majesty stated that, with a view to restoring order in the Anatolian provinces, he was sending Generals Shakir Pasha and Saadeddin Pasha, together with some civil functionaries, to the Erzeroum and Bitlis districts respectively. Your Lordship is already acquainted with the movements of the Commission under Shakir Pasha; and I have now the honour to report that Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mush telegraphed to me on the 20th December that Saadeddin Pasha, accompanied by the civilians Ibrahim and Jemal Beys, had arrived at Mush; and on the 22nd December, that after inquiring into the situation in that town, and recommending the inhabitants to keep quiet, they had left for Bitlis.

Her Majesty's Vice-Consul added that the dangerous situation in the district was represented to the Commission in forcible terms by the Mutessarif, but that their visit had had no practical result, and the Cadi, whose removal both Mr. Hampson and the Mutessarif consider indispensable for the public safety, remained unchanged.

Under my instructions Mr. Block made inquiries of the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs as to the object and powers of Saadeddin Pasha's Commission, and he was informed in reply that they were sent to take measures for the restoration and maintenance of order, and to see whether the civil and military authorities had faithfully carried out the instructions given to them. The Porte had as yet received no Report from the Commission.

Mr. Block at the same time urged the Porte to consider the advisability of removing the Cadi of Mush (see my telegram to your Lordship No. 772 of the 5th December). The Grand Vizier replied that, in answer to his inquiries, the Vali of Bitlis reported that the Cadi was the most loyal, devoted, and excellent of all officials, and that the reason why the Mutessarif objected to his remaining at Mush was a private quarrel between the two men; the Grand Vizier added that he had given them both to understand that they must live in harmony. Mr. Block then spoke very strongly on the subject, and again urged him to remove the Cadi, dwelling on the grave responsibility which would be incurred by the Porte in the event of further disturbances at Mush. His Highness finally said that he would apply for information to Saadeddin Pasha.

On my informing Mr. Hampson by telegraph of the Grand Vizier's language, he has replied that all the respectable Turks and Armenians at Mush declare the Cadi to be a most unscrupulous and dangerous man. He adds that the Commission threatened the Armenians with extermination if they intrigued, and warned them against expecting foreign intervention.

I have now instructed Mr. Block to bring the Cadi's character to the notice of the Sultan's Chief Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 864.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December 30.*)

(No. 1003.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 24, 1895.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 943 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a further despatch from the Acting British Consul at Jeddah respecting the excitement among the Bedouins consequent on the arrests in connection with the Jeddah outrage, and the military measures adopted to keep them in check.

Mr. Alban draws particular attention to the short time which is left for military operations before the arrival of the main body of pilgrims.

I have drawn the attention of the French and Russian Embassies to this point, and have also instructed Mr. Block to make further representations at the Porte and Palace on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 864.

Acting Consul Alban to Sir P. Currie.

Jeddah, December 10, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch, Confidential, of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the Bedouins arrested here and in Mecca are still detained in prison, and as yet no result appears to have been attained by their imprisonment. The excitement caused among the Bedouins by the arrests and the stoppage of their supplies from Mecca and Jeddah has increased, and of late large bodies have been hovering in the neighbourhood of the Mecca road with the avowed object of stopping all traffic.

So far, beyond an attack on a few camels which were bringing fruit and vegetables to Jeddah, they have not committed any act of violence. A few days ago the land telegraph wire between Jeddah and Mecca was cut, and the line between Jeddah and Suakin was also cut at a village called Roweiss, about 5 miles from here, but both lines were speedily repaired. The lines were again cut yesterday, but communication was quickly restored. One caravan only, consisting of about 300 camels, leaves Jeddah daily for Mecca with a strong escort. The number of troops on the road has been increased, and I am informed that at the least alarm they assemble from various points with great rapidity. The Bedouins, who are wretchedly armed, do not seem inclined to face the rifles of the troops, and will probably wait for an opportunity of surprising a caravan when its escort is unprepared.

The officials at Rabuk left that place on a passing vessel and arrived here a few days ago. The Sheikh of Rabuk, who is appointed by the Turkish Government, also arrived here, and obtained from the Grand Shereef permission to send 400 sacks of wheat to that place, where the inhabitants are suffering great privations.

The Turkish steam-ship "Kiamil Pasha" arrived here on the 3rd instant and landed here 600 Turkish soldiers from Coomgidah. Other troops are expected from Assyr Yemen, but have not yet arrived.

I am informed that a few days ago some of the Harb tribe from the district of Asfan made a raid upon a tribe of Shereefs living at some little distance to the south of Jeddah. During their absence a party of the Otiyba tribe made a raid upon their dwellings and carried off some plunder. Two lives were lost in the affray.

Beyond the arrival of the troops mentioned above no preparations are apparently being made for an expedition. I am informed that the local authorities have at the present time no funds at their disposal, even for the ordinary needs of the vilayet, and that it will therefore be difficult for them to obtain the necessary supplies for an expedition.

The recent action of the Grand Shereef appears so far to have only resulted in exasperating other sub-tribes of the Harb, who might otherwise have remained more or less neutral. As I have already reported to your Excellency, in another month pilgrims will begin to arrive in large bodies, and, as it is most probable that the approaching pilgrimage will be a "Haj Akbar" or "Friday pilgrimage," their numbers are likely to be greater than usual. It is therefore of great importance that any military operations should be commenced before the arrival of the main body of the pilgrims, to which, no doubt, the Bedouins are looking forward as an opportunity for reprisals.

I have the honour to report that the Austrian man-of-war "Pola," which left here about three weeks ago for surveying purposes, returned here on the 7th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR D. ALBAN.

No. 865.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 1004.)
My Lord,

Pera, December 24, 1895.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 986 of the 24th December, I have the honour to state that I met my Russian and French colleagues on the 24th instant in order to discuss the [illegible] we should take with a view of having the Commission of Control placed on a proper footing.

As it appeared evident that the Porte was neither willing nor able to deal with the matter, we decided to make a direct representation to the Sultan through his First Secretary.

We have accordingly instructed our three Dragomans to call together on Tahsin Bey, and, after informing him of the unsuccessful communications which they have made to the members of the Commission and to the Porte, to request him to call His Imperial Majesty's immediate attention to the following points:—

1. The nomination of a President of the Commission.
2. The enlargement of the powers of the Commission, so as to make it in fact what it is in name, a Commission of Control.
3. Authority to be given to the Commission to communicate direct with the local authorities and not, as at present, with the Ministry of the Interior.
4. That the Judicial Inspectors sent to the provinces be instructed to cause judicial inquiries to be held into recent events.
5. That the instructions given to Shakir Pasha be communicated to us.
6. That a Christian Muavin be at once attached to Shakir Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 866.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 1005.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 24, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout and Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, giving further details respecting the campaign against the Druses in the Hauran.

I have instructed Mr. Block to make representations at the Porte respecting the conduct of the troops in allowing the excesses reported in Mr. Drummond Hay's despatch to take place without any interference on their part.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 866.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Sir P. Currie.

Beyrout, December 12, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to the accompanying despatch from Mr. Eyres of the 10th instant, I have the honour to add that seventeen Druse horsemen of Mejdel Shems arrived lately at Baalda and petitioned Nasum Pasha to intercede for them, stating that their villages had been burned, and their cattle carried off by the Kurds and Bedouins.

Their families, who had taken refuge on the heights of Mount Hermon, were suffering great privations, many having succumbed from cold and hunger.

His Excellency communicated with the Vali of Damascus, who replied with assurances that the Druses would not be molested if they returned to their villages.

They are now demanding the restitution of their cattle from the Bedouins.

It would appear from trustworthy reports that the official version of the occurrences at Mejdel on the 28th November was inexact.

The affair began with the murder of several Druse herdsmen and the robbery of their cattle by Circassians and Bedouins.

A body of Druse horsemen were sent in pursuit and succeeded in recovering the cattle, but were overtaken by a large number of Circassians, and had to relinquish their property. The Druses then sallied forth, about 700 strong, and rashly followed the Circassians to a distance four hours north of Mejdel, where they were met by Turkish troops and outnumbered.

During the retreat 104 were killed, and half as many wounded.

The ransacking and burning of Mejdel by Circassians, Kurds, and Bedouins took place in the presence of Mamduh Pasha and his troops; several Christian houses were destroyed, besides the American Mission school and three churches.

These latter acts were, however, committed by Kurds, as it was particularly remarked that the Christian dwellings and edifices were respected both by Circassians and Bedouins.

With regard to the Lebanon, all ringleaders of the late demonstrations have been arrested and imprisoned, but there is a very strong feeling of clanship between Druses, and the recent barbarous acts at Mejdel, committed under the eyes of the military authorities, have naturally roused their sympathies.

Nasum Pasha informed me that, in his reports to Constantinople, he had expressed surprise that such excesses should have taken place in a district occupied by a detachment of troops sufficiently strong for the purpose of keeping order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 866.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Damascus, December 9, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Hauran expedition will in all probability turn out a complete fiasco after all.

It was always a matter of astonishment that such a large force should have been employed, when 5,000 troops would have been amply sufficient for the purpose of repressing the Druses. Indeed, so excessive for the ostensible object did such an armament appear, that the wildest reports are spread as to the real intentions of the Ottoman Government, and it is certain that the Turkish officers and civil officials were unable to explain the matter satisfactorily to themselves.

Whatever the motive of the Ottoman Government may have been, it was at least to be expected that at length vigorous repressive measures would have been undertaken against the Druses, and that some sort of order would have been introduced into the distracted region lying between Hermon and the Jebel Druse. But what is the result?

In the first place, the troops, ill-furnished in every respect as they are, have been suffering terribly from want of food and from cold. It is commonly reported that already half the Albanian troops are *hors de combat*, but, though this is probably an exaggeration, it is within my knowledge that every evening from 150 to 250 sick arrive from the Hauran, and that the deaths amount at present to thirty per diem. This state of affairs being reported by telegraph to Constantinople, orders were received to hasten the operations and finish the campaign as soon as possible. But it would seem that the idea of the military authorities was to occupy the principal Druse villages, and to force the Druses to surrender by these means. It is clear that some time would be required to bring the campaign to a termination in this way, especially as the troops so far have done nothing beyond occupying Mejdel-es-Shams.

Now, however, I am credibly informed that a Commission is about to be formed to treat with the Druses and settle the question amicably. If this be really so, and I can hardly doubt it, a more miserable example of weakness and hesitation has rarely been seen.

In the second place, the presence of the troops has not even had the effect of preserving order. The Circassians and Bedouins of the Faddul tribe have utilized the opportunity to raid and pillage in all directions. There is no doubt that the fight that occurred at Mansourah, which I reported previously to your Excellency, was due to a Circassian raid, and that the Druses were attempting to recover the cattle and other goods which the Circassians had carried off. The cue of the Druses just now is to keep quiet, and not to offer any opposition to the regular troops, more especially as they have telegraphed to the Sublime Porte that they are loyal subjects of the Sultan, and do not understand the reason of the expedition against them.

The Circassians, however, were in no way checked by the troops, and they have since raided in all directions and even pillaged villages within 11 miles of Damascus, villages of mixed population of Druses and Christians who were perfectly peaceable. The Military Commandant, Omar Pasha, denied to me all knowledge of these raids, and stated that it was his intention to punish all marauders of whatsoever denomination, but this intention remains unfulfilled. At Ain Sharb, a village on the slopes of Hermon, in the presence of about 2,000 regular troops, 300 Bedouins fell on the Druse quarter, and, finding that the Druses had fled and taken their goods with them, they pillaged and maltreated the Christians, some of whom were shot and stabbed.

It is reported that the Druses have threatened to massacre the Christians, who dwell in the neighbourhood of the Druse Mountain, if the troops march against them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

Inclosure 3 in No. 866.

Consul Eyres to Sir P. Currie.

Damascus, December 17, 1895.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that up to this date the troops in the Hauran have made no forward movement, though the Vali stated in public that they had received orders to advance three days ago.

The mortality among the soldiers continues, the Albanians especially suffering terribly from cold, exposure, and want of food. A so-called hospital has been established at Sheikh Meskin, the head-quarter camp, and therefore it is more difficult than before to obtain certain information about the number of invalids, but nearly every evening a number of sick, varying from 20 to over 100, are brought to Damascus by train.

The Commission which was to have been appointed under the presidency of Reschid Bey, Mutessarif of Hamah, is still unformed, principally, I believe, because the idea of treating with the Druses was so repugnant to the Moslem population of Damascus, that the authorities hesitated to put this project into execution. In addition to this the murder of a captain of cavalry, together with a soldier and the driver of a carriage, in which the officer was being conveyed to Damascus, by a party of Druses who chanced to meet them, caused such a ferment in town that a number of Moslem women visited the Vali, and abused his Excellency roundly for not taking measures to put a stop to the disorder which now reigns throughout the district to the south of Damascus. The Vali replied that it was not his fault if the troops, hastily collected, were not in a position to take the offensive, but that he intended to order an advance immediately.

The Hauran is, however, during the rainy season, practically a morass, and it is very doubtful if the artillery could be moved without a long spell of fine weather.

Up to the present moment the presence of the troops has had absolutely no effect on the situation, with the exception that it prevents the Druses from making head against their deadly enemies, the Circassians and Bedouins, and that consequently the latter have raided villages with the utmost impartiality, and have killed various Druses wherever they found them in sufficiently small numbers. These proceedings have infuriated the Druses, and they appear to me to be more inclined to resist the regulars than heretofore. Their armed bands move freely about the country, and only lately some 500 horsemen visited a Druse village about 12 miles from Damascus, and carried off all the inhabitants and their goods and chattels to the Hauran, though the military had notice of their intentions. It was this body which on their return met and killed the cavalry officer as above mentioned. I learn also that yesterday the Druses attacked the troops stationed at Bosreh-el-Harir, a strong position, and that they were repulsed with some loss.

The heads of the Irish Presbyterian Mission have laid a complaint before me to the effect that at Ain-Sharah the Bedouins plundered their Mission house and school under the eyes of the troops, who, as I previously reported to your Excellency, did not attempt to stop the pillage. The Christians of Ain-Sharah and other Mount Hermon villages are in a state of panic, and have come to Damascus to lay their case before the Vali.

In conclusion, I have the honour to state that the country south of Damascus is in a state of anarchy, that the conduct of the campaign shows the most hopeless incompetence, and that it is to be feared that worse things may befall as long as it is the cue of the authorities not only to refrain from repressing disorder, but also to encourage their irregular allies to commit every sort of crime, and to stand by with folded hands while they plunder Druses, Moslems, and Christians alike.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 867.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 1006.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation of an official telegram published to-day in the Turkish newspaper, the "Sabah," giving an account of the defeat of the Druses by the Imperial troops in the Hauran.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 867.

Extract from the "Terjuman-i-Hakikat" of December 24, 1895.

Telegram from Omar Rushdi Pasha, Commanding the 5th Corps d'Armée, to the War Minister.

(Translation.)

ON the 7th instant, at 6 o'clock, the Druse brigands assembled in the Hauran round the villages of Mezirga and Sejk were defeated and destroyed by the Imperial troops, and their strongholds captured. A large force of brigands which threatened our right wing was also put to flight, and the village of Mejdel, where they had entrenched themselves, was captured. Further, a force of 5,000 was routed to a distance of two hours. The behaviour of the troops is worthy of all praise. Next day, no traces of the brigands being visible, the troops left Mezirga at 6 o'clock and reached Suedia at 9 o'clock, where we were received solemnly and with acclamation by the inhabitants. The brigands will be pursued with all zeal, and the telegraph wires having been prolonged to Suedia reports will be sent every day in future.

No. 868.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 1008.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 26, 1895.

I HAVE sent Mr. Block twice during the past week to the Porte to make representations respecting the people of Zeitoun. In addition to the usual inhabitants of the town, many thousands of Armenians from the surrounding districts have, it is said, crowded into the valley, and it is to be feared that the usual excesses will be committed as soon as the resistance of the armed Zeitounlis has been overcome. My German colleague had received instructions to make an urgent protest on the subject, and the First Dragoman of the German Embassy and Mr. Block expressed our earnest hope that no efforts would be spared to induce the Zeitounlis to submit by conciliatory means before having recourse to arms.

The Grand Vizier accused the Zeitounlis of having killed the soldiers of the garrison whom they had taken prisoners, and of having committed fearful atrocities in the Turkish villages in the neighbourhood.

No confirmation has been received of the truth of these charges, but the Zeitounlis, when preparing for resistance, appear to have forcibly collected provisions from the country districts which are inhabited by Mussulmans.

On the 23rd instant I received a visit from the Armenian Catholic Patriarch, Mgr. Azarian, who made a communication on behalf of the religious Heads of the Catholic, Gregorian, and Protestant Armenian communities at Aleppo. It was to the effect that they had at the request of the Turkish authorities sent Notables to Zeitoun to urge the Armenians to surrender, and to offer them guarantees for their safety on certain conditions. The Zeitounlis had replied that they had no confidence in the guarantees, and persisted in their armed resistance to the troops. It was believed that they could not hold out much longer, and that there would be a terrible slaughter of the peaceful inhabitants and of the refugees. The Patriarch made an earnest appeal for the intervention of the Ambassadors, and urged that we should send our Consuls from Aleppo to negotiate a surrender. I called at once on Baron de Calice, the Doyen, and asked him to summon a meeting of the Ambassadors. He did so, and on my proposal my colleages agreed to ask for the necessary authority.

The Austrian Ambassador undertook meanwhile to sound the Porte as to their willingness to consent, and he accordingly made a communication to the Foreign Minister on the 24th instant. The Ambassadors having received the sanction of their respective Governments, a further meeting was summoned for yesterday evening, but meanwhile I received Mr. Barnham's telegram announcing the capture of Zeitoun. When we assembled at the French Embassy M. de Nélidow stated that he had just been received in audience by the Sultan, and that His Majesty had spoken to him about Zeitoun, and had referred to the communication made on the previous day by the Austrian Ambassador. His Majesty had said that he was most anxious to avoid unnecessary bloodshed, and that he had given orders to his troops to advance with deliberation so as to give time to the Zeitounlis to come to terms. But he added that they had already three times refused the proposals made to them, and it was necessary that they should be subdued. The terms offered were that they should surrender all the arms of precision which they possessed, that they should give up their leaders, and that they should rebuild the barracks which had been destroyed. M. de Nélidow spoke of the proposed mission of the Consuls, which His Majesty considered unnecessary, though he did not absolutely reject it.

The Sultan in his conversation with the Russian Ambassador had ignored the fact that Zeitoun had already been captured two days previously, and my colleague heard with some surprise the contents of Mr. Barnham's telegram.

The objects which His Majesty had in view in concealing the truth are not clear, but the fact of his doing so diminished the reliance which some of us might have been ready to place on his assurances.

I suggested that, notwithstanding the capture, we should ask for safe-conducts for our Consuls and send them to Zeitoun to make arrangements for the protection of the unarmed inhabitants and refugees.

M. de Nélidow stated that the authority he had received to send his Consul to negotiate would not extend to such a mission as I proposed, and my suggestion, though it met with some approval from my other colleagues, was not adopted by them.

M. de Nélidow stated his intention of sending his Dragoman to-day to the Palace to remind the Sultan of his assurances, and to urge that strict orders be given to the troops to spare the non-combatants. The other Dragomans will make similar representations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 869.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 1009.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 26, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter from Mardin received by Mr. Dwight, of the Bible House, giving an account of the recent disorders in those parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 869.

Letter addressed to the Rev. Mr. Dwight:

Mardin, November 25, 1895.

TROUBLES in these parts date from Friday, the 1st instant, when rioting began in Diarbekir after the noon prayers. Pillage and arson, at which Kurds from outside assisted, followed—mainly of markets—until Sabbath afternoon. Friday evening Kocher Kurds from Tevikn, adjoining Sasun, and others began an attack on Kutturbul, which is directly opposite to Diarbekir on the east bank of the river. On Sabbath means for defence failed, and the sixty Christian houses were plundered and burned. Some twenty remain scattered and destitute.

Saturday afternoon an attack upon Karobash was repulsed. A second attack on the Sabbath resulted in killing some seventy villagers and the surrender of the village, to plunder and burning some hundred houses. This village is one hour east from Kutturbul.

Sabbath witnessed an attack on Kaobequoi (one and a-half hours south of Kutturbul), which was resisted for six hours and then given over to plunder—about 150 houses. These three villages were mostly Syrian and Protestant families. Three pastors and one preacher were killed in them. The same day witnessed the taking and plunder of Chorikquoi, mainly a Chaldæan village. The Chaldæan priest, wife, and daughter were slain, and young son carried captive. From Karobash and Kaobequoi many captives were taken, women and children, but the Vali is very active in securing their return.

On Tuesday, the 5th November, Kulleth (150 houses—90 Syrian and 60 Protestant), nine hours north-east from Mardin, was attacked, but the Kaimakam of Soar, with zaptiehs, and Nove Allah Bey, with Bashi-Bazouks, also from Soar, helped the villagers to hold the Kurds at bay four days, when they withdrew from the stubborn contest. The Christian portion of Bofliwa, three hours south from Kulleth, was attacked, taken, plundered, and burned during those same four days.

On Wednesday, the 6th instant, Tel-Evmin (about 200 houses and 60 shops and immense granaries), five hours south-west of Mardin, and on the plain—Papal Armenians—was attacked. Thursday the church surrendered and was looted, and the town burned. Abrahmeyeh was also taken (some 25 houses), plundered and burned.

On Thursday evening, the 7th instant, Joeli (about 300 houses Syrian, except 25 Papal Syrian and 10 Protestant houses, one and a-half hours south of Mardin) was attacked. Church surrendered Friday at 10 A.M., after plundering and burning had gone on for five hours. Arms were surrendered, and the people set free. Some fifty had been killed, some of them Protestants.

On Thursday afternoon, the 7th instant, Kurds from the east surrounded the village of Kmorra and the strong stone monastery of Dere-ez-Zoofevan. The latter is twenty minutes from the village, which is one hour east of Mardin. Most of the goods of the village had been stored in the village church, and some Kurds had engaged to guard it. They were overpowered by the hosts of Kurds, and the place was rifled. The villagers made stout resistance in the Dere until Monday, the 11th instant, when relieved by troops from Mardin. They are now, however, all paupers—between 400 and 500. Thursday, the 7th instant, witnessed also an attack, taking, sacking, and burning Benobeel (Syrian and Protestant, about 50 houses in all), which is two and a-half hours east from Mardin. When the church surrendered, most of those in it took refuge with those who had formerly fled to a strong cave in the side of the mountain. All remained there till Sabbath noon on starvation rations of food and water, until troops from Mardin raised the siege, and brought them (300 in all) to the city, together with nineteen prisoners and much spoil. Some 3,000 refugees from all these villages are now crowded into the city. Mardin itself was for three days (8th to 10th) in great danger. The Kurds made attempts to enter it Friday evening and Saturday morning, but were repulsed by the troops and the Kurds living in the city. At the date of writing the city walls are still guarded both day and night. Local Government, at the command of the Vali, took special pains to guard our premises, and twenty-five soldiers are still upon them. On the 18th instant some eighty cavalry from Dere-ez-Zore entered the city. Moslems and Christians united in the common defence.

On Sunday, the 10th instant, and in one night, Nisibin was attacked in the Christian quarter, and plundered before a band of Hamidiehs from the Toi tribe of Arabs could be sent to protect the town. They preserved the rest of it. Between the 8th and the 15th instant some eighteen Christian villages on the plain to the east of Nisibin were

plundered, and in some cases burned, and on Monday, the 11th, two Yezidee villages shared the same fate.

Midyat (about 1,000 houses, Syrian and Protestant, fourteen hours north-east of Mardin) was surrounded by Kurds, but the vigilance of the Government troops stationed there and that of the villagers, who are sharpshooters, thwarted every effort to enter the town.

Redwan and Till, respectively fourteen and eighteen hours north-east of Midyat, have also been plundered, but date and particulars are wanting. Sert, a city of some 15,000 Shoofooeeh Moslems, 200 Armenian, 70 Protestant, and 20 Syrian houses, about 150 miles north-east of Mardin and 54 miles south-west of Bitlis, has probably been plundered in markets and Christian quarters. We infer so from telegraph to-day received from the deacon of the church, who says: "Congregation hungry and naked—in want of daily bread—help us." Saturday, the 16th instant, Kerbavan (250 Syrian and Protestant houses) attacked. In the above and many other places in our field not yet heard from, aid in clothing, warming, and feeding these plundered thousands will be imperatively needed during the approaching winter season. It should be immediate. Yesterday the Mardin church made a noble effort to meet the situation occasioned by such an influx of refugees in addition to the care of their own poor. On principle, we let them make the first move. With the funds promised by you, we to-day gave work to some of the refugees from the villages. But we should receive hundreds of pounds in place of tens. When the country quiets down a little more a tour of investigation and a report upon the extent of the needs of the plundered people will be made. Meanwhile, pray for us and them, and send us speedily means for their relief. I am all alone here. Mr. Dewey is still in Mosul. The telegram from Mr. Peet allowing us to draw £ T. 50 for relief came Sunday, the 17th. I have refrained from writing about the number killed in various places because we are not in a position to make careful investigation, as we cannot get out of the city. Let us know if this letter gets through to you.

No. 870.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 1010. Confidential.)

Constantinople, December 26, 1895.

My Lord,

I LEARN from an authoritative source that the deficit in the Turkish Budget up to the end of October amounted to £ T. 1,485,000, and that this deficit may be expected to be largely increased in view of the disturbed state of the Anatolian Provinces, and the difficulty of obtaining any further revenue from them.

The revenues in the Vilayets of Roumelia as well as in Anatolia show a considerable falling-off, and with the sole exception of the Vilayet of Aidin, the Minister of Finance has been unable to draw any money from them, but on the contrary, has been obliged to supply funds to certain places in order to meet local requirements.

The revenues of the Public Debt were £ T. 20,000 lower last month than during the corresponding month last year. The receipts of the Régie are from £10,000 to £20,000 lower for the same period, and they are, so I am informed, diminishing in every province of Asiatic Turkey except Aidin, Angora, Sivas, Castamouni, and Trebizond.

The Customs revenues are already £ T. 100,000 short for this year, and it is estimated that they will fall off about 40 per cent. next year.

In short, the financial situation is becoming exceedingly serious, and with the constantly increasing expenditure owing to the calling out of the reserves, it is difficult to foresee how the Turkish Government will make both ends meet.

Hopes have been held out that extraordinary resources would be obtained by the grant of monopolies on petroleum, spirits, cigarette-papers, and other commodities, and negotiations have been going on with private individuals and syndicates with a view of carrying such arrangements into effect.

I have sounded my colleagues as to the support which some of them were said to have given to these schemes, but they were all of opinion that it would be impossible to put them in force without the unanimous consent of the Treaty Powers, which there is no prospect of obtaining at present.

The state of the money market will postpone indefinitely the proposed conversion

of the Customs and Railway Loans, and there remains only the renewal of the Régie Concession.

The Ottoman Bank and the Government have hitherto been unable to come to terms about this, and under present circumstances it could only be carried out on conditions very unfavourable to the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 871.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 390. Secret.)
Vienna, December 27, 1895.

My Lord,

I ASKED Count Goluchowski yesterday whether he had received from Baron Calice the report of his consultations with Sir Philip Currie and M. Cambon respecting the possibility of taking steps to induce the Sultan to appoint a responsible Ministry, and whether he had at all changed his mind in regard to the expediency of making an effort in this direction since I mentioned the subject to him on the 20th instant.

His Excellency replied that he had heard from Baron Calice, whose Report had been, in fact, entirely in the sense in which I had given him to understand it would be drawn up. As regards his own opinion, however, he had found no reason to alter it. He felt strongly that in a matter of such importance success would be impossible without the absolute unanimity of all the Powers, and upon that unanimity it was useless to reckon.

"There will be," said he, "some one Power, it is not necessary to be precise as to which it will be, which from motives, I will not say of bad faith, but of excess of prudence, will not care to join the others in such a step; and the effect of this dissent will be such as I described in our last conversation on this subject."

Count Goluchowski, in reply to a further inquiry on my part, explained that although his opinion is fixed, he had not yet made any communication, in consequence, to Baron Calice; and I gathered from his language that he might delay doing so, probably because he wishes, first of all, to know what effect will have been produced at Paris by M. Cambon's representations. At the same time, I have no expectation that his view on the inexpediency of raising the question of a responsible Turkish Ministry will be materially affected by anything he may hear from Count Wolkenstein, who had not up till yesterday furnished any information in regard to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 872.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 30.)

Admiralty, December 28, 1895.

Sir,

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts from a letter from the Commanding Officer of Her Majesty's ship "Arethusa," dated at Alexandretta, the 10th December, respecting the state of affairs and the massacres at Marash.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 872.

Captain Langley to Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour.

(Extract.) *"Arethusa," at Alexandretta, December* 10, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report that affairs in the town of Alexandretta are quiet, but according to reports from the interior the conditions have not altered, as fresh outbursts on the part of the Mahommedan population at both Kaiseryah and Marash have taken place.

As there are several men in the town here who took part in the massacres at Marash, and have returned, we have got pretty authentic details of the horrors that the Christian inhabitants were subjected to. The soldiers in this case were the perpetrators of the massacre ordered by the Pasha.

No. 873.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 829.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 30, 1895, 4·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 277 of the 30th December respecting Zeitoun mediation, I wanted authority to send Colonel Chermside both as pressure on the Sultan to make him accept the proposal of the mediation of the Consuls and also as a lever to move my colleagues to insist on the joint proposal. If both fail, I should send Colonel Chermside to Alexandretta or Messina in the "Imogene." He does not anticipate any difficulty in getting from thence to the scene of action, and, even if his mediation is not accepted, his presence there would exercise a controlling influence on the Sultan as well as on the Military Commander.

No. 874.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 1012. Confidential.)
Constantinople, December 26, 1895.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Memorial, respecting the state of affairs in Turkey, which has been forwarded to the Evangelical Alliance in London, and which was communicated to me by the Rev. H. O. Dwight, of the Bible House at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 874.

Memorial sent to the Evangelical Alliance in London, for its information, and if deemed proper, its use in informing the Branches of the Alliance in Europe and America.

Attacks on Christianity in Turkey.

(Confidential.)

AS is now generally known, during the months of October and November the Mussulman population of Eastern Turkey, in many places actively aided by Ottoman troops put to death from 30,000 to 40,000 Gregorian and Protestant Armenians. The killed were chiefly males, and included a considerable proportion of the educated and influential classes in the six vilayets named in the reform scheme, namely, the Provinces of Erzeroum, Bitlis, Van, Diarbekir, Harpoot, and Sivas. A part of the whole number massacred were killed in the cities of Trebizond, Aintab, Marash, Ourfa, and Cæsarea, which are outside of the provinces named above. The massacres were accompanied by pillage on such a scale that nearly the whole Armenian population in the villages, and the greater part of the Armenian traders and artizans in the cities and towns in the provinces and districts named above, have been plundered of money, goods, food supply, clothing, implements, cattle, and sheep, their houses being destroyed, and themselves reduced to abject want.

The purpose of this paper is to invite the attention of the Christian world to a progressive aggravation of this awful crisis which has been brought to light since the middle of November.

In a territory some 60,000 square miles in area an effort has been and is now being made to extinguish Christianity among the Armenian race by destroying church edifices, killing the clergy, and forcing the surviving members of their flocks,

in all places where the foreign Consuls are not present to report the facts, to become Mahommedans. It now seems probable that a large proportion of those who have been killed in the country districts are martyrs, who have refused life at the price of denying their Lord. Large numbers of widowed Christian women and orphaned children have been swept, without will of their own, into families of the men who have destroyed their homes. Thousands of others, deprived of succour, deserted by Christendom, and threatened with instant death, have been led to accept in name the religion which has ruined them, have been circumcised by force, and now beseech God and humanity to save them from the death which the Mahommedan law holds over such in case they afterwards attempt to obey the dictates of their consciences. Yet other multitudes are now being singly approached, and put under pressure of the most awful threats if they continue to refuse to deny the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Armenian Church, for centuries the largest and most sturdy of the Asiatic Christian Churches, during the last fifty years has made great progress in moral, intellectual, and spiritual life. Its members have used and fed upon the Bible more than those of either of the other branches of the Eastern Church. This ancient Church is now in the throes of annihilation. Unless Christendom acts instantly and overwhelmingly to arrest this infamy, this century of enlightenment will be marked in history as the one in which a Christian people was destroyed with the full knowledge and before the eyes of Christendom, no Christian nation being sufficiently moved by the spectacle to lift a hand to prevent it.

Notes are appended below of some incidents of the recent massacres in Turkey. Only from a few places comparatively has the cry of the suffering been heard. These notes give, however, a slight idea of the ferocity of this attack upon Christianity in Turkey. It will be noticed that wherever a foreign Consul is established there things have not been carried to the extreme now revealed. For a Consul in Turkey is like a single policeman preserving the public order. It must be observed also, and emphasized, that the same hand which beckons to Europe to wait and see if reforms will not be carried out, pushes on this work, and screens it from the eyes of foreign observers. Hence the facts which have come to light represent but a small part of the horrors which have occurred.

Incidents of the Massacres bearing on this Subject.

October 1, 1895.—The monastery of Verakugh, in the district of Kemakh, was sacked.

October 4.—The Sourp Anardzat monastery at Pakarich was pillaged.

October 12.—Five other monasteries in the district of Kemakh were destroyed.

October 21.—The monastery at Chokha, in the same district, was pillaged.

October 21–24.—Eight monasteries in the district of Erzingan were sacked.

October 22.—The church at Pesonan, in the district of Erzingan, was pillaged, and the priest with thirty of his flock, who had fled there for refuge, were killed in the church.

October 14.—During the massacre at Baibart the Armenian villages of the district were summoned to abjure their faith on pain of death; and the people of four of these villages yielded to the pressure and declared themselves converted to Islamism. In the city of Baibart itself the Archimandrite and all of the school teachers, except the teacher of one primary school who escaped, were put to death.

October 24.—In the Terjan district of the Province of Erzeroum about 1,000 Christians were killed, and the survivors only escaped by accepting Mahommedism.

The males among the converts, including the Acting Bishop of the diocese, were afterwards publicly circumcised, and the Muslims insisted that the "converted" women should be given at once as "wives" to their young men, in proof of sincerity of conversion.

October 27–31.—The church of the village of Usudum was burned, and the priest slain. The church at the village of Tennik was robbed and profaned. The church at the village of Koinik was pillaged, and the priest killed. The church at the village of Garash was sacked and profaned. The above-named villages are all in the plain of Erzeroum, where twenty-four Armenian villages were devastated at the same time.

October 31.—The Armenian monastery at Hassan Kale, in the Province of Erzeroum, was burned, and in it the Bishop and eleven inmates of the monastery.

October 27–31.—In the district of Kara Hissar Sharki, Province of Sivas, nearly all the Armenian villages were destroyed (twenty-seven are known to be so), numbers of the men killed, and a great many young women and girls were carried off to

be incorporated in the Mahommedan population. The destitute survivors, fleeing towards the coast, have been turned back by Government troops. Many churches have been desecrated and pillaged.

At Tamzara, in this district, the old and rich church of Sourp Takavor, a place of pilgrimage dear to the Armenians, was entirely emptied of its contents; sacred vessels, books, vestments, jewels, &c., valued at 6,000*l*. The monastery of Sourp Kevork was also pillaged. Two priests and two school teachers, one of them a Protestant, were killed.

At Purk, in the same district, the church was burned, with the people who had taken refuge in it.

October 28.—At Enderes, in the same district, the church was burned, with a number of women and children who had taken refuge there.

November 2.—Two priests were killed at Pingian, in the Province of Kharput. At Danzik, in the same province, the Armenian villagers, being commanded to become Muslims on pain of death, saved their lives by professing Islam.

At Lijk, in the same province, the villagers were summoned to become Muslims on pain of death, but the result is not yet known.

November 9.—At Missis (Mopsuestia), in the Province of Adana, the Commander of the Turkish troops of the Reserves, with a number of his men, entered the Armenian church during service, tore the vestments from the priest's back, desecrated the sanctuary, poured out the holy oil and the sacred wafers, tore up the Bible and Prayer-books, beat the priest, and outraged his wife, who lived in rooms adjoining the church. The priest afterwards sought to make complaint to the civil authorities, but was imprisoned for slander at Adana.

At Khizan, in the Province of Van, the Superior of the Armenian monastery was killed, his skin flayed off, stuffed with straw, and hung up in a public place. A considerable number of the population have been forced to become Muslims.

November 3–14.—In fifty-three Armenian villages in the plains of Ouliva and Kiziva, in the Province of Harpoot, the churches have been sacked, and many of them are known to have been destroyed. Scant Returns have come in, but many of the clergy are known to have been killed.

November 11.—In the city of Harpoot the Christian quarters of the city were sacked, and many houses burned. Over 500 people were killed, and many others escaped death only by accepting Islamism. The churches and schools, both Gregorian and Protestant, were sacked and burned. Many priests were killed, and two Protestant pastors. Several priests yielded to the pressure and became Mahommedans.

The Protestant pastor at Koh, near Harpoot, was killed for refusing to become a Mussulman.

The Protestant pastor at Hulakeuy escaped from the hordes of butchering Muslims, and with his wife reached the city of Harpoot in safety. There they were taken from the house where they had found refuge, were ordered to accept Islamism, and on refusal were both put to death.

At Ichme, in the Province of Harpoot, when the massacre occurred a number of the people succeeded in escaping to the Armenian church, which was a strong stone building. Having been induced to come out, they were allowed to pass the door one at a time. Each one as he came out of the church was invited to embrace Mahommedanism. All who refused were killed on the spot. Fifty-two thus accepted martyrdom. Among these was the venerable Protestant pastor, Kirkor, who was seven times offered his life if he would but become a Muslim. The Armenian church has now been transformed into a mosque, and the Protestant church into a stable.

At Ouzoun Ova, on the other side of the Euphrates from Ichme, some were killed, and a considerable number, chiefly women and children, were taken to a neighbouring Turkish village to be forced to change their faith. While on the way the road approached the river, and one of the best women in the place proposed to her companions that they should throw themselves into the river. Fifty-five of them did so, and were drowned rather than to deny their faith and meet a fate worse to them than death.

The latest date from the region of Harpoot is the 26th November.

The letter says: "Throughout the length and breadth of the country east of Sivas, there seems to be a general effort to force people to become Muslims under threat of instant death. Many stand firm. I hope comparatively few deny their faith; but help must come soon, as we cannot predict what will be the result of the terrible pressure brought to bear on this poor people."

The four great monasteries of the Province of Harpoot have been pillaged and

burned. The Archimandrite Papazian, who was at the monastery at Tadoum, was subjected to horrible tortures before his persecutors became weary and finally put him to death.

November 10.—In the villages of Erzingan the people, still threatened with massacre, denied protection by the Government officials, and finding no help from and source, are losing courage and becoming demoralized, and the tendency to seek escape from an awful situation by becoming Muslims, show signs of increase.

November 18.—In the city of Marash many hundreds of Gregorian and Protestant Armenians, men, women, and children, were massacred by the Muslims, aided, if not led, by the troops.

Nearly all of the leading men of the four Protestant churches in the city were killed (eighty-seven Protestants were killed). The minister of the church, which is affiliated with the Church of England (under the Bishop of Jerusalem), was also put to death, and the pastors of two of the other Protestant churches were imprisoned after the massacre. At the same time the Theological Seminary of the American Mission was pillaged and burned by Ottoman troops, and two of the theological students were shot, one fatally.

November 11.—In the city of Harpoot the Theological Seminary of the American Mission, with several other buildings belonging to the Mission, were pillaged and burnt in the unconcerned presence of the troops.

November 30 *to December* 2.—In the city of Cæsarea several hundred Gregorian and Protestant Armenians were massacred.

It seems probable that in nearly every case the offer of life on condition of accepting Islamism was made. The method taken with the women was to demand that they declare themselves Muslims. If they refused, as many did, even children of 12 years of age were cut down mercilessly.

This is a cruel fact which can be substantiated with the utmost ease. A considerable number of women and children in the city and surrounding regions were carried off as booty by the Muslims.

No. 875.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 830.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 31, 1895, 11 A.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 276 of the 28th December:

The Palace and Porte have sent me repeated assurances that stringent orders have been given for the protection of the relieved districts by troops.

I telegraphed to Hampson, and report his answer separately.

No. 876.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 831.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 31, 1895, 11 A.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 830 of the 31st December, I have received the following telegram from Mr. Hampson at Mush to-day:—

"I am continually sending up supplies of grain to all the villages. Ishkenser and the neighbourhood were again threatened by Kurds, but on my strong representations more soldiers were sent, and all the relieved districts now appear quiet."

No. 877.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 832.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 31, 1895, 11 A.M.

THE British Vice-Consul telegraphs to-day from Alexandretta that, in the districts of Payas and Osmanie, Armenian girls and boys are being brought by Circassians from the interior and sold to Turks. The Christians have been greatly excited by this intelligence.

No. 878.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 833.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 31, 1895, 11 A.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 582 of the 2nd November:

On the 28th and 29th instant a second massacre occurred at Ourfa:

No. 879.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 834.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 31, 1895, 2·25 P.M.

THE Armenian Archbishop at Erzeroum, who has done harm by his unconciliatory disposition, has been exiled to Jerusalem. A guard of cavalry accompanied him to Trebizond. The Consuls appeared to be glad to be rid of him, and also the leading Armenians who had petitioned the Patriarch for his removal.

No. 880.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 835.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 31, 1895, 3·5 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 829 of the 30th December:

The Porte's answer respecting Zeitoun mediation, though not amounting to a positive refusal, is very unsatisfactory. Having repeatedly urged my colleagues without effect to press for acceptance of our joint proposal, I stated at a meeting of the Ambassadors this morning that I was authorized to send Colonel Chermside in the event of its not being accepted. This statement at once produced the desired effect, and it was agreed to instruct our six Dragomans to go this afternoon in a body to the Palace and the Porte, and strongly urge the acceptance of the mediation by Consuls.

No. 881.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 836.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 31, 1895, 7·45 P.M.

MR. HALLWARD telegraphs from Van to-day that about seventy Armenians have fled to Akhtamar from the Sparghird in Khizan. They say they are the survivors of thirty-three Armenian villages in that district who have not been made Mussulman or killed, and if they returned they are sure to meet with a similar fate. Vali of Bitlis demanded that they should be sent back. Could he and the Vali of Van be instructed to leave them alone?

No. 882.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 837.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 31, 1895, 7·45 P.M.

THE sum of 13,300*l.* placed to my account for the Armenian Relief Fund has been distributed in the following way: In addition to 6,000*l.* for Sasun, and the sums mentioned in my telegram No. 812 of the 19th December, the sum of 1,800*l.* has been divided among Bitlis, Van, Marash, Sivas, and Marsovan, leaving 1,000*l.*, part of which will be sent to Diarbekir and Arabkir.

No. 883.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 279.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 31, 1895.

I HAVE received with deep regret the intelligence conveyed in your Excellency's telegrams Nos. 832 and 833, that Armenian boys and girls are being sold by Circassians, and that a fresh massacre has taken place at Urfa.

Her Majesty's Government were assured that the Sultan had taken measures to prevent further massacres, and they had trusted that those measures would have proved effectual. Your Excellency, moreover, reported that reserves had been moved to Urfa, and this renders the renewed massacre there less excusable.

The most painful impression will be caused in this country by the report of the sale of Armenian girls and boys.

I request you to address earnest representations to the Porte on both these points, and to endeavour to induce your colleagues to join in them.